



Thursday, June 28, 2018

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# GET SET FOR A BOSTIN' FESTIVAL

Report by Luke Bartlett

**IT'S** been going from strength to strength for five years and now Dudley and the wider Black Country is preparing its biggest and best festival yet.

The month-long Black Country Festival celebrates everything that makes our region bostin' – and it gets under way on Saturday.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin predicted a 'fantastic festival', saying: "Well done to Steve Edwards (organiser) for pulling together what I am certain will be another brilliant festival, celebrating all that's great about the Black Country. The festivals have been fantastic, bringing all of our communities together."

"I think Dudley and the Black Country are the greatest places in the world. We lit the spark that fired the industrial revolution and changed the whole of the world."

"I want us to be inspired by that and I think the festival gives us the confidence to know we can beat any challenges and bring new industries, new jobs and new prosperity to the Black Country."

The festival runs from June 30 to July 29, with the actual Black Country Day on July 14. The festival starts with a fun day at Vale Street Recreation Ground, Upper Gornal, on Saturday afternoon. The Black Country Road Run is held in Halesowen on Sunday, which is also when Armed Forces Day is held at Himley Park.

## Carnival

A street food festival is at Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse on July 6 and Halesowen Carnival is at Highfield Park on July 7 (see page 5), the same day as the Chain Makers Festival in Cradley Heath, Tividale Park Fun Day and Netherton Park Fun Day. Then it's Stourbridge Carnival on July 8.

Charities will be in a spin when Dudley Council officers and councillors go head to head in their annual cricket match for the Mayor of Dudley's charities at Stourbridge War Memorial Ground on July 13. The teams will play 20 overs each and the game is free for spectators.

Dudley Fun Day will be held in Stone Street on July 14. That will be the busiest day of celebrations in the borough, also King George V Park hosts Wordsley Festival on July 14, the OH (Our Heroes) Festival and parade is in Old Hill and the first Shell Corner Food and Drink Festival in Long Lane, Halesowen. The Black Country Masters Golf Tournament takes place at Dudley Golf Club.

For a full list of events visit [www.black-country-festival.co.uk](http://www.black-country-festival.co.uk) website.

## ON YOUR MARKS FOR BLACK COUNTRY ROAD RACE



You don't have to be Usain Bolt to enter The Black Country Road Run – organiser Alan Bowler with deputy mayor Hilary Bills and mayor Alan Taylor

MORE than 1,000 runners are expected to be on the starting line raising money for charities at the seventh annual Black Country Road Run on Sunday.

Organisers from Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club say the event has become a firm favourite in the Black Country and further afield with runners coming from as far as Scotland to take part. They run two laps of a

course around Halesowen in a 10k race measured by Run Britain. Many others will take part in a fun run and this year the organisers are introducing a corporate event.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and Black Country marathon man Blind Dave Heeley are set to take part. With Blind Dave planning to do both the 10k and fun run.

Organiser Alan Bowler said the races had raised more than £140,000 for charities over the years. He added: "We are looking to get around 1,000 to 1,200 people across the races. We support a lot of local children's charities and Black Country Women's Aid."

"Andy Street has been very supportive. James Morris has taken part every year and each Dudley mayor supported the event."

## DEVELOPMENT

### MP asks residents about homes plan

AN MP has launched a survey over plans to build on park land in Rowley Regis.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris wants residents to give their views on a proposal for a site opposite Rowley Crematorium. The plan would see the loss of more than 9,000 square metres of green space, says Mr Morris, who understands the plan is for 90 homes with communal facilities for the elderly.

He added: "Several local residents have been in contact with me concerning the proposed development off Moor Lane. As far as I know, no public consultation has taken place." He said he would work with campaigners Bob Dunn and Satpal Singh to give residents a say.

## ACCIDENT

### Motorcyclist dies in three vehicle crash

A MOTORCYCLIST from the Oldbury area has died following a crash involving two other vehicles at Stourton, near Stourbridge.

The 48-year-old man was riding a Triumph on the A458 Bridgnorth Road at around 1.15pm on Saturday. He suffered serious injuries and died at the scene. The crash also involved a Mercedes C180 and a Land Rover Evoque.

## VIOLENCE

### Medics facing more knife and gun crime

PARAMEDICS are dealing with 30 stabbing and shooting incidents a week in the West Midlands as the region struggles with an upsurge in violent crime.

New figures show West Midlands Ambulance Service responded to 1,512 incidents where a victim was either knifed or shot in 2017/18 – up from 1,355 the previous year.

## INSIDE

### SMART MOVE AT MERRY HILL



PAGE 11

## Activities Include

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## CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
THE TICKET	21
BRAIN GYM	27
RESTAURANT REVIEW	28
CLASSIFIEDS	31-32
MOTORING	33-34
SPORT	35-36
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# Mutilation cases include 30 in Dudley

NEARLY 800 victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the West Midlands have been treated by the NHS over the past year.

Official figures from NHS Digital show the shocking scale of the barbaric practice, with Birmingham posting one of the highest levels of FGM of anywhere in the country.

There were 620 cases recorded in the city in 2017/18, with 179 in the Black Country. A total of 90 women were treated by medical staff in Sandwell and there were 55 cases in Wolverhampton, 30 in Dudley, four in Walsall and two cases in Staffordshire.

The NHS says it has increased support for

women suffering from abuse but estimates that only five per cent of those affected by FGM seek treatment.

Across the country 6,400 women and girls with FGM were seen by NHS staff in England between April 2017 and March this year. An estimated 137,000 are thought to have been affected by it.

FGM – when female genitals are cut or otherwise injured for no medical reason – is illegal in the UK. Carrying it out, or assisting, either in the UK or abroad, can be punished with up to 14 years in prison.

A spokesman for the NSPCC said: “FGM is a barbaric practice that leaves its victims physically

and mentally scarred. We urge any young women or girls dealing with the physical and emotional impact of FGM to seek help and support. Sadly this abuse is still all too commonplace.

“There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage. Since the launch of our FGM helpline in 2013, we have received hundreds of calls.”

The round-the-clock helpline is available on 0800 028 3550.

FGM is most commonly carried out within communities from Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

# Appeal to save green space from cemetery

**OPEN green space which has become a home for wildlife in Rowley Regis could be destroyed under proposals to build a cemetery, says a campaigner.**

The land in Powke Lane, located behind houses that face the crematorium, is currently open green space.

Sandwell Council has confirmed it is working on a proposal to build a cemetery on the land, to provide enough burial space for the town for years to come.

But Russell Bibb, who lives on Powke Lane, has slammed the proposals saying the green space needs protecting.

He said: “The area they are proposing to develop has been a nature reserve for many years. It's home to a large number of birds, foxes, badgers, bats, we even have an owl that visits every year.

## Oasis

“I feel we will lose this urban oasis of wildlife if we start intruding with a cemetery. It's also used by many families with young children. I just feel there are better sites to explore, for example, the big green space opposite the crematorium that is hardly used and doesn't require the obliteration of wildlife.”

Sandwell Council deputy leader Councillor Syeda Khatun said: “There are proposals to develop part of what is currently known as Powke Lane Open Space for the purpose of a new cemetery. We have contacted residents whose properties are adjacent to the site to get some feedback.

“It is proposed to initially develop only part of the site, which will afford residents ongoing access to the remainder of the site.

“Subject to the necessary approvals the new cemetery will ensure that there will be sufficient new burial space and memorial options in Rowley Regis for many years.

“A draft plan of the design proposals and location will be on display in the reception area at Rowley Regis Crematorium for Sandwell residents to view.”

## Blooming lovely garden opens



Green-fingered Ron Kerr keeps the blooms watered ahead of opening his garden to the public on Sunday

GARDEN admirers in Halesowen this weekend can view a garden that is not usually open to the public and at the same time raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Ron and Anne Kerr are opening their Waxland Road garden on Sunday, from 1pm to 5pm, to raise money for the Stourbridge hospice.

The couple, who run B & C Pets & Plants in Alexandra Road, previously opened the garden up under

the National Garden Scheme but decided to leave that scheme so they could exclusively raise money for the hospice which serves the Black Country.

Mr Kerr, aged 75, said: “We've got a lovely water feature which won a national competition, and a woodland walk, vegetable plots and flower borders. There's a decked area too with lovely views.

“We have been opening our gar-

den for years but decided to raise money just for Mary Stevens as its a charity close to our heart.

“We really hope to make a difference with our event. So we just want people to know that we're here.”

Entry to the view the garden at 20 Waxland Road, Halesowen, will cost £3.50 and refreshments will be available. All proceeds go straight to the hospice.

# Black Country version of 'Boris bikes' on the way

DUDLEY borough is set to get its own version of London's famous 'Boris Bikes' this autumn under a new deal to grant more powers to the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Docking stations will be located around key sites in Dudley's with the bicycles available for visitors and residents 24 hours a day.

Dudley Council's cabinet were hearing about plans to bring the bikes to the borough while considering the second devolution deal at its meeting on last night (Wednesday).

Annual membership to the scheme will cost £30 a year, meaning riders can access the bikes for as little as 8p a day.

The first 30 minutes are usually free and charges will apply per half hour after that.

Dudley is set to be part of phase three of the project rolling the bikes out across the region.

Nextbike is to provide 5,000 bikes around the West Midlands, along with connecting parking hubs, over the next two years.

## Concession

Wolverhampton is expected to get 900 from September, with Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell each getting 300 this autumn. Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry will also get bikes.

Nextbike was picked to run the bike concession by Transport for West Midlands, part of the combined authority, earlier this year.

The scheme will be similar to London's Santander Cycles – formerly known as 'Boris Bikes' in honour of Boris Johnson, who introduced a similar scheme in the capital during his tenure as Mayor of London.

Other benefits to the borough of a second devolution deal would include funding for projects such as the Brierley Hill Metro extension, the new Music Institute in Brierley Hill, DY5 Enterprise Zone, Very Light Rail project and a new Dudley bus station.

# Keep Fittle with some local dishes

DUDLEY Canal Trust is holding its first Bostin Fittle Festival this weekend, from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

The free festival will offer Black Country food and drink, including locally made ales, ciders and wines available in the Gongoozler restaurant at the trust's HQ, The Portal, off Birmingham New Road.

Local musicians will be performing, there will be craftspeople showing their wares and there will be discounted canal trips available.

It is open noon to 5pm Friday, 10am to 10pm Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday.

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# Timber firm fined £730k after workers hit by truck

A TIMBER business where a truck ploughed into employees has been fined £730,000 following 'serious and systematic failures'.

Two men were left wounded with one of them suffering 'life-changing' injuries when a combilift hurtled into them at Palmer Timber Ltd's Cradley Heath base.

Bosses now have four years to pay the fine which was given because the firm failed to make sure the workplace was safe for its 90 employees.

Sentencing at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Barry Berlin condemned the firm for exposing workers to the 'risk of harm on a daily basis'.

He said: "It is inevitable when operating in such an environment that errors will be made. The primary cause of the accident was the failure by the company to organise its workplace so pedestrians and vehicles could circulate safely."

"The company fell far short of the good standards to ensure safety. There were serious and systematic failures within the company to address risks to safety."

One man, a side loader driver, suffered a fractured ankle but managed to avoid more serious injury.

## Dragged

But the second victim – a picker who has since left the company – was left nursing serious injuries after being dragged at least six yards before the combilift stopped.

His head was in front of the vehicles' wheel when tragedy struck, leaving him needing 14 stitches and six skin grafts, the court heard. He lost a piece of bone from his face, suffered a fractured eye socket, needed his ear re-attaching and had his broken collarbone pinned.

Both men had been wearing high-visibility jackets while loading an 18-tonne lorry at the company's Granville Works site in Station Road. There were six to seven lorries, forklift trucks and staff working in the same area when the incident happened at about 4pm on February 23, 2015.

A worker driving the combilift had not seen the two men due to a 'massive blindspot'. Palmer Timber Ltd admitted failing to ensure pedestrians and vehicles could circulate in a safe manner.

## More unemployed

THE number of unemployment benefit claimants in the West Midlands has shot up over the last year. Labour-sourced figures show 71,365 people claimed unemployment benefit in May 2018, up 7,320 (11 per cent) on the same month last year. Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said the figures were 'shocking'.

# Caught on camera stealing a charity box



Do you recognise this man?

A MAN broke into a charity shop and stole a donation box and costume jewellery from the premises.

The thief was pictured on CCTV after he smashed his way in to the Mary Stevens Hospice shop in Louise Street, Lower Gornal, in the early hours of Friday, June 15.

He caused damage to a door, side window and a display case during the burglary.

The hospice has now released a CCTV image of the thief in a hope that someone may recognise him. They also thanked the community for

rallying around them in the wake of the break-in.

A spokesman for the Stourbridge-based charity said: "Our shop managers and volunteers are fantastic every day and stay behind to ensure no money is kept in the shops overnight. Unfortunately, he did steal the donation tin off the till, a large collection of costume jewellery and he smashed our display case with a hammer on his way out."

"In the wake of something potentially devastating for us as a charity, we have seen our community rally

round us and support us in a way that will live with our shop team and volunteers for the rest of their lives."

The spokesman continued: "As for the gentleman in the picture, we want to reach out and say that while we can't imagine what situation prompted your decision to steal from a charity like ours, we want you to know that the damage done will be fixed, we will work extra hard to re-raise the money and items you've taken..."

Anyone with information about the burglary is asked to call police on 101.

# Hundreds walk for Tom and children's hospital

**MORE than 350 people took part in the Walk for Tom, as the fundraising venture in his name reached nearly £30,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital so far.**

The event was organised in memory of Wollaston 14-year-old Tom Mole, a popular young rugby player and Oldswinford Hospital school pupil, who died suddenly in April from a rare illness.

Tom was a keen player for the under-14s team at Stourbridge Rugby Club, and the 16-mile walk saw



Tom Mole died aged 14

friends, family, and members of the rugby community take part in the tribute to him, raising money for the hospital that helped him during his illness.

His father Simon said it would have been 'hard to cope' without so much support.

He said: "It was so sudden. Tom was training in rugby at the time with Leicester Tigers Academy in Lichfield. He was nearly six foot, wore a size 10 and a half shoe and could run like the wind."

"But then on the Sunday he said he felt tired. We went to the Isle of Wight to see his grandma, but when we got back he said he still felt rough. So we took him to Russells Hall Hospital on the weekend, they admitted him straight away and were in contact with Birmingham Children's Hospital. He then was transferred there on the Wednesday, and died the following Wednesday."

"Without the support of the club and his school I don't know what we would have done. They have been golden."

Tom's rugby coach Chris Roe said the walk was an 'emotional but touching' day. It started at 10am at Birmingham Children's Hospital and finished at 4.30pm at Stourbridge Rugby Club, with walkers following the path of the number 9 bus route.



Just some of family, friends, rugby players and supporters who walked from Birmingham Children's Hospital

Chris said: "We think we had 220 people at the start, and then at the end possibly about another 100. It was fantastic. It's been a tough few months so it was great to see this was so successful."

The under-14s coach met Tom when he joined the club at just six-years-old, and his sudden death hit the entire club hard.

Walk for Tom saw nearly all members of Stourbridge Rugby Club take part, as well as those from

local rivals Old Halesonians, and other clubs. Kinver Scouts, Tom's old scouts group, offered their minibus for the day to help any stragglers.

Tom died on April 26 at Birmingham Children's Hospital after contracting HLH secondary, a rare illness in which the immune system attacks itself. He leaves parents Simon and Rachel and sister Poppy, aged nine. Visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/srfcu14) to donate to the cause.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Firefighters tackle large factory blaze



Picture: West Midlands Fire Service

**MORE than 40 firefighters have tackled a blaze which has ripped through a factory in Brierley Hill.**

Eight crews worked to bring the fire under control at the business in Fens Pool Avenue, Woodside.

The property, which includes an office building, has been damaged by the blaze. Crews were called to the scene at around 9.40pm on Monday.

West Midlands Fire Service posted footage on social media showing significant damage with twisted metal and debris.

There were no reports of any injuries.

## Building society hits lending record

DUDLEY Building Society has hit a record level of mortgage lending.

The society, which has its head office at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, and celebrates its 160th anniversary this year, saw a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.72 million to £1.54m for the year to the end of March. But its mortgage lending was up 58 per cent from £51.9m to £82.2m and more than £70m was deposited by savers. The total asset base was up 12 per cent to a record £397.4m and this has topped £400m since the end of the financial year. Reserves are also up.

## School's delight over thumbs-up

STUDENTS and staff at a school in Tividale are celebrating after inspectors rated the academy as 'good' again, recognising continued success.

Ofsted visited Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy last month as part of a short inspection.

The report described how the academy's leadership has 'maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection'. They praised the executive principal Marie McMahon and her team.

## Rotary backing award

A ROTARY club is supporting a young person or apprentice of the year award as part of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce's annual awards.

The Rotary Club of Dudley is sponsoring the award which recognises young employees, aged 24-years-old or under, with a cash prize of £1,000 for the winner.



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# Plan for 62 homes aims to redevelop old college site

**AN ARSON-HIT former school and college campus in Stourbridge is finally to be knocked down to make way for homes.**

There have been calls for action over the redundant former Longlands School on Bowling Green Road, which has been empty since Birmingham Metropolitan College closed its doors on the site in 2011, when Stourbridge College art students moved to a campus in Brierley Hill. Stourbridge MP Margot James was involved in talks to find a new purpose for the large plot located in the middle of a residential area.

## It adds up to success for maths pupils

YOUNG mathematicians from across the borough battled it out to be crowned winners of a maths competition.

The finals of the annual Primary Dudley Inter-School Mathematics Championships was held at Saltwells EDC last week with pupils from several primary schools taking part.

The competition is split into two age groups – years three and four (aged seven to nine-years-old), and years five and six (nine to 11-year-olds).

In February around 700 children took part in the heats of the competition, with the first and second place schools for both age categories going into the final.

Glynne Primary School, in Kingswinford, were crowned champions in the younger age category, while Halesowen's Newfield Park Primary School won the older category.

Under new plans submitted to Dudley Council by Persimmon Homes, the 2.3 hectare site that has become a magnet for vandals would be cleared for the construction of 62 homes.

The buildings have been plagued by a spate of fires and anti-social behaviour with the buildings struck by a major blaze two years ago.

The new proposals for the eyesore site have been welcomed by council bosses who believe it could help tackle the shortfall in housing across the borough.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "I'm delighted an application has been submitted to bring this site back into use."

"The application will have to go through the planning process for a decision but this is a great opportunity to ease residents' concerns about the site and bring much-needed housing to the area."

Since the college's closure in 2011, the site which was also used by Stourbridge College has been a target for vandalism. But Persimmon Homes hope their proposals will mean a new beginning for the prime location in Wollaston.

## Teacher to pedal 970 miles for charity



Getting ready to cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats, deputy head David Scriven

YOU'VE got a way to go yet sir! Deputy headteacher David Scriven is getting ready to pedal 970 miles from Lands' End to John O'Groats.

The 55-year-old Pedmore Technology College teacher is heading off on July 22 to raise cash for the Cure Parkinson's Trust.

Mr Scriven will tackle the challenge with a group of friends over nine days and hopes to raise £1,000 for the charity.

He said: "I am fortunate to be able to enjoy good health at the moment. However, friends of a similar age to myself are facing the challenges which Parkinson's brings. It's for this reason I'm hoping to raise as much as possible for The Cure Parkinson's Trust."

"A couple of my friends have been struck down and some of them are managing the changes of Parkinson's. I wanted to do something to support a very good charity. It's going to be a massive challenge."

To sponsor Mr Scriven, visit the [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-scriven1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-scriven1) website page.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition which can be treated with a range of therapies but it is currently incurable. In 2018 around 145,000 people in the UK are living with Parkinson's – that's one person in every 350. This is anticipated to increase by 18 per cent by the year 2025 and is set to almost double by 2065. It is estimated that one person in 37 will receive a diagnosis of Parkinson's.

## Traders BID aiming to boost town

PROPOSALS to boost trade in Stourbridge by creating a Business Improvement District (BID) for the town are set to be given the green light.

Dudley Council's cabinet was being asked to approve the plans for the Stourbridge BID at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

The proposal, supported by Dudley Council and put forward by Stourbridge Chamber of Trade, Ryemarket Shopping Centre and other organisations, estimates that around £140,000 each year could be generated to improve the town.

As part of a BID local businesses pay a levy, a small percentage of a business's rateable value, to the BID company to enhance the town centre.


Businesses could be asked to take part in a ballot to vote on the proposal later this summer. The funds would then be used on improvements, decided by members of the BID, such as improved security, events and the environment.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "BID has a proven track record in bringing businesses together to improve their districts, attract additional funding and promote what they have to offer. Following on from the success of the Halesowen BID we are delighted to be supporting a similar scheme for Stourbridge."

## Albion have welcomed stadia standing review




WEST Bromwich Albion have welcomed an official review into safe standing at football grounds after Sports minister Tracey Crouch said her 'mind is open' on the issue.

The announcement followed a Parliamentary debate on safe standing, which came after a petition was signed by 112,000 people calling for its introduction.



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## Meera makes panto debut as mermaid

MEERA Syal and Jimmy Osmond have been unveiled as the stars of this year's pantomime performance of Peter Pan at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Making her pantomime debut is Wolverhampton-born Meera, OBE and CBE, is best known for her roles in TV shows Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No. 42.

A former pupil of Queen Mary's High School in Walall, she is a comedienne, writer, playwright, singer, producer, journalist and actress who has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The author of Anita and Me, a book inspired by her childhood growing up in Essington, will play the Magical Mermaid.

While The Osmonds star, youngest member of the '70s hitmakers and Long Haired Lover From Liverpool singer Jimmy Osmond will play Captain Hook.

Also appearing in the cast will be comedian and Brum panto regular Matt Slack as Smee and Union J star Jaymi Hensley as Peter Pan.

Britain's Got Talent stuntman star Sascha Williams will play the part of The Drunken Pirate, while acrobatic troupe The Timbuktu Tumblers will feature as The Neverlanders.

This year's pantomime at the Hurst Street theatre will run from December 19 to January 27. The show will be produced by Qdos Entertainment.

## Display team flying in for Armed Forces Day

THE Wings Parachute Display Team will be one of the highlights of the free admission Armed Forces Day honouring servicemen and women past and present at Himley Hall and Park on Sunday. The 12.30 display (depending on weather conditions) will be followed later in the afternoon by the presentation to veterans of the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge.

# Organisers are promising biggest and best carnival yet

## Widower upset at overgrown cemetery



The overgrown St John's churchyard in Halesowen where foliage is obscuring the headstones

A PENSIONER has hit out at Dudley Council for failing to maintain a cemetery in Halesowen.

John Halls, aged 80, said the grass was so tall in St John's churchyard that he could hardly find his wife's grave to leave flowers.

A spokesman for the council said they carry out twice yearly cutting and maintenance at the site.

Mr Halls said: "The grass is overgrown you can hardly see the graves.

It has been like that for the last couple of months.

"When I contacted the council about the state of it, they said they don't have the funding to maintain it. The grass is three foot high - it is an absolute disgrace.

"I had to go and buy a strimmer to cut back the grass to try and find my wife Doreen's grave so I could put fresh flowers on it.

"Her ashes were put in her mother's

grave 10 years ago and I attend the grave regularly. We had a job to find the grave, never mind to try and leave flowers for her!"

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "When we took over the responsibility for maintaining the churchyard, it was overgrown and in a state of neglect. Since then we have implemented a twice yearly cutting and maintenance programme."

ORGANISERS are promising the biggest event the town has ever seen when Halesowen Carnival returns next weekend.

Back for the fourth year, the event on Saturday, July 7, is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

This year's event - which will include a music festival - will start in the town centre from 10am with music from Black Country Radio, plus a variety of performers.

Highfields Allotments holders will be joining the event by opening their gates to the public where they will have a scarecrow event, while also selling home produced honey and plants.

The main event will get underway at Highfield Park from noon, where the Mayor of Dudley and Halesowen councillor Alan Taylor will introduce this year's carnival royals.

### Talent

Simon Cowell look-a-like Andy Monk will be introducing the two winning acts from Halesowen's Got Talent - dance acts MYDC and 12-year-old Harriet Littlehales - and choosing the overall winner.

There will also be a food and drink festival, which was new to the carnival last year, a free-to-enter fun dog show, dog agility, wrestling, martial arts, a variety of stalls, as well as inflatables and fairground rides.

Stuart Henley, carnival chairman, said: "The carnival is growing year on year. It is great to be part of this event and bring this to Halesowen.

"The committee that organises this event is a small group of four. If anyone would like to volunteer on the day or in the future then please get in touch. "We would also like to encourage local businesses to be one of our sponsors in next years event."

Visit [www.halesowen-carnival.com](http://www.halesowen-carnival.com) for more information.

## Gangster TV show wins more prizes

BIRMINGHAM-SET gangster drama Peaky Blinders has received an award at an event celebrating television excellence.

The BBC TV series, which is partly filmed at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum, scooped the Rockie Award for Best Drama Series: English Language at Canada's Banff World Media Festival.

Starring Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy and Helen McCrory, Peaky Blinders also won a BAFTA Award earlier this year. Peaky Blinders has been aired for four seasons with a fifth confirmed for 2019. The show has followed the rise of the fictitious Shelby crime family in Birmingham in the 1920s and is written by Birmingham screenwriter Steven Knight.

It has led to a Peaky Blinders industry with themed tours and alcoholic drinks named after the show. There is even now a Peaky Blinder sausage.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# ‘Hygiene poverty’ is a real stinker

THIS sounds like something out of Oliver Twist, but Staffordshire headmistress Nicola Finney says she has spent hundreds of pounds of her own money on soap, deodorant and toothpaste for pupils who repeatedly turn up to school in a filthy state.

According to the charity In Kind, she is not alone. A survey it carried out revealed that 36 per cent of teachers who responded provided toothpaste, 29 per cent had bought soap, and 27 had bought treatments for head lice, or nits as they used to be known. Perhaps the words “who responded” are crucial to the reliability of that survey, but nevertheless it is shocking that in this day and age children are being sent to school smelly and unwashed.

The survey says “hygiene poverty” is a growing problem in Britain’s schools, with a growing number of parents unable to afford basic washing products. I do think it would be interesting, though, if, at the same time, those who commissioned the survey had dug a little deeper and spoken to the parents about the reasons why they were unable to ensure their children went to school in a respectable state.

For example, how many of those claiming their children are too poor to wash have flat-screen TVs, for example? Do they have mobile phones, home computers? Do they smoke or drink? If so, I would have thought that personal hygiene was surely more of a priority.

Perhaps I’m being uncharitable, but a quick look on the Aldi website reveals that you can buy a bottle of shower gel for 33p, four bars of soap for 59p, and roll-on deodorants for 45p. We’re hardly talking big-ticket items here.

I’m pretty sure that even during the Great Depression, when there was hardship unlike anything we term as poverty today, most parents would have managed to make sure their children washed before they went to school.

Miss Finney is clearly a very kind, dedicated headmistress, and her pupils are lucky to have somebody who cares so much about their welfare.

But at the same time I do worry that in hiding behind terminology such as “hygiene poverty”, we are simply making excuses for bad parenting which, at its most extreme, is tantamount to child abuse.

More than that, I can’t help but think that it is a great insult to the vast majority of parents on low incomes who would willingly starve than subject their children to the indignity of having their teachers issuing them with soap.

## Millions watch TV from Russia with love for football



England hero Harry Kane in Volgograd, but why did only 3,000 supporters turn up?



Prince Charles – maybe hoping to boost his green credentials with a Tesla electric car?



Phillip Lee – one of those who fell on his sword over the ongoing Brexit unrest in Parliament

# Will Kane be able to bring out the fans?

POLITICAL terms of our time. Meaningful Vote: an opportunity for the Brexit vote of 17.4 million Britons to be overturned by a few dozen Remain MPs – in the name of democracy. Fudged a few days ago but still lurking.

LOVED the opening line on The World at One (Radio 4): “Canada has legalised cannabis. We’ll be speaking to the high commissioner.”


I WROTE recently that in more than 40 years in journalism, I had yet to hear a single reader complain about being a victim of upskirting. A correspondent says this is because it’s a modern crime, made possible by tiny cameras. He may have a point. In ye olden days, even if you managed to smuggle your glass-plate camera and tripod under a lady’s crinoline, the explosion of magnesium flash-powder was a dead giveaway.

THE shortest and most thought-provoking comment on taking photographs up ladies’ skirts came in an online debate this week: “Upskirt. Wimbledon.”

STRANGE, isn’t it, that while around 2,000 England fans have travelled to the latest World Cup game against Panama in Russia, up to 25 million viewers are reckoned to have tuned in to see Harry Kane’s heroic hat-trick in the England v Panama match? I bet the answer is that while the beautiful game has lost none of its fascination, there’s deep unease about endorsing Russia in any way.

THE Salisbury nerve-agent affair may be part of the explanation for the low turnout of World Cup

### THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



fans. But, while the jury is still out on that incident, a full international inquiry has left no doubt that Russia has blood on its hands for shooting down Flight MH17 over Ukraine in 2014, and killing 298 innocents. Maybe it’s that casual act of mass murder, or maybe fear of Russian hooligans, that keeps supporters out of Russia.

I SUGGESTED we might celebrate Brexit Day next March by setting off fireworks. A reader takes me to task: “Why would you like to terrorise animals around the country by such an antic?” What animals? As all serious Remoaners know, by the time we leave the EU the economy will have collapsed, we’ll all be living in mud huts scavenging for food and all the cows, sheep, cats, rats, dogs and hamsters will have been eaten long ago. Our rockets will fall harmlessly into a bleak and blasted apocalyptic landscape. Or am I thinking of the millennium bug?

I HAVE no idea how this got past the marketing people but I see the Arla dairy co-operative is selling “Farmers Own Milk.” Arla is based in Leeds but doesn’t it put you in mind of Royston Vasey?

HALF a page of the Daily Telegraph was devoted to a report about the Prince of Wales hoping to acquire an American electric car, the Tesla.

We were informed that Prince Charles’ people have been speaking to Tesla for more than a year about the acquisition. Very odd. Buying cars is normally quick and simple. So what can the hold-up be? Unless, of course, this is not a sale at all but a freebie arrangement in which Tesla supplies the car, HRH polishes his green credentials by saying nice things about electric vehicles and the Telegraph splashes what is in effect a free advert.

ON the same day, quite by chance, my electricity bill arrived. It’s a reminder that electric cars are clean and green only if they are powered by clean, green electricity. In 2016-17 less than a quarter of UK electricity came from renewable sources and more than half came from nasty ol’ planet-warming coal and gas. Put that in your Tesla and burn it.

THE Guardian reports that in a question-and-answer session at the Labour Live “Jezfest,” a former councillor candidate called for “specific mental-health resources for people who have stood in elections and failed to win.”

AS this Brexit debate reaches its climax, watch out for more ritual falling on swords, as performed by the Tory justice minister Phillip Lee, followed by half-a-dozen of Corbyn’s front-benchers. They get their moment of high principle but, because no-one outside Westminster has ever heard of them, it hardly shakes the nation. I was reminded of that sketch when Peter Cook as a senior RAF officer orders a pilot (Jonathan Miller) on a doomed mission with the words: “We need a futile gesture at this stage. It will raise the whole tone of the war.”

### TALKING POINT



# Counting the cost of holiday behaviour

GETTING ready for a fortnight in the sun can be a daunting prospect for many, what with packing the right clothes, cancelling the papers and checking your passport is valid.

But how many of us consider how we’d react if faced with that most dreaded of problems – the holiday trouble-maker.

This year’s World Cup has generated plenty of headlines about fears of possible hooliganism, and rightly so.

However, with the main holiday season just beginning, perhaps the media should be turning its attention to how some people misbehave while taking their well-earned break.

According to a recent survey, one in 20 Britons – five per cent – have been asked to leave a hotel with being drunk and disorderly, not surprisingly, the most common reason. Other misdemeanours include causing excessive noise, and inviting people to the hotel.

How about apologising? Well, the survey found that just 11 per cent were forgiven and allowed back in by the hotel management.

Now, before anyone points to the reputation Britons have for being rowdy, take a look at these figures: one in eight (12 per cent) French holiday makers have been removed from a hotel, followed by those from Germany (nine per cent), Spain (six per cent) and Italy (three per cent).

In this supposedly money-rich, time-poor era, it seems absurd that having saved up for a holiday, so many people choose to spoil it for themselves – and, more importantly, others – by not knowing how to behave.

On a lighter note, the survey by price comparison website hotelscan.com also asked for examples of embarrassing experiences.

Falling over turned out to be the most common, with that comedy staple of ‘suitcase spilling open’ not far behind.

The most telling though was ‘showing off, only for it to go wrong’, which no doubt comes about from being so inebriated in the first place.

It’s almost a badge of honour to drink to the point of oblivion, to demonstrate their capacity for booze which, combined with blazing sunshine and not having to get up for work the next day, can have a devastating effect.

So, to anyone about to set off for a holiday, remember it can be a long and expensive trek home if you find yourself with nowhere to stay.

But there again, there’s always next year if it all goes wrong!

STEVE PARLETT

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# Penny-pinching society discards the elderly

WE now appear to have local councils at the point of no return with regards to the elderly in care.

Funding is at an all time low, owing to the constant cutbacks by the Government, staff morale is at rock bottom, every job has a time limit.

Pensioners are now treated as a chore, a quick hello, beans on toast, cup of tea, bye, see you tomorrow, another ten minute job over, carer races to next job.

How very sad. These people have paid into this country for a lifetime, yet now, when in need, they are treated

## Life ban for killer motorists

THE tragic death of a young lady recently is indicative of the selfish and uncaring society that we have become.

The victim's father is a decent, intelligent and well-respected author, known personally to me.

The shock of his daughter's demise caused his wife to have a heart attack. I cannot imagine the agony that family is going through.

The driver who caused the accident was convicted and sentenced to a prison sentence of six years. The victim's family is now sentenced to never seeing their daughter again.

The standards of driving in the UK are worse than they have ever been, with complete disregard for other drivers or the law.

I believe that these maniacs who treat our roads like a race track, resulting in a fatality, should be banned from driving for life following their prison sentence.

**MICHAEL CLIFF**  
Wall Heath

like nonentities. Many old folks never see anyone for days, they need company, a chat, someone to sit with.

In the 1960s my mother worked in a council-run old people's home. I used to go there to get the key off my mother to our house when I came home from school. I remember all those happy old folks, who loved to chat, tell me about the past, etc. Yes they were happy, they had occupational therapy, they helped in the kitchen with my mum, cooking their own tea, washing up, feeling wanted, taken on days out.

Contrast that with today, plonked in

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Violent crime not a priority for wealthy

THE increase in violent crime and particularly knife crime on our streets is absolutely shocking, but what is being done about it? Absolutely nothing as far as I can see. There are lots of fine words and suggested long term solutions but nothing concrete that is going to save lives now.

One thing is for certain, if it was a problem that mainly affected bankers, lawyers, politicians, etc, something would be done about it immediately, but as it is a problem which mainly affects the poorer members of society and people from diverse backgrounds, then it is not seen as a priority.

This, of course, is all wrong but unfortunately this is the sort of society we are living in today.

**MR J WESTLEY**  
Dudley

a semicircle with the television on full blast, all slumped in chairs, so the staff know where everyone is.

What an evil society we live in now. We treat them like garbage, everything now is time orientated, homes with pretty rooms but no companionship.

There are a few decent care homes. But some are substandard, all thanks to the penny-pinching society which we are all part of. So visit your elderly neighbour, have a chat, show them you care, we owe them a great deal.

**MR C LLOYD**  
Dudley

## Revive the commuter train lines

'NO more quick fix on transport, say bosses' The Chronicle June 14. In fact, there is no fix of any kind when it comes to finishing the 120k Black Country Railway. Over 50 years our foolish transport bosses have nicely fixed our urban railway lines by stupidly thinking they were meant to have homes, shops, trading estates and roads on them instead of trains.

Even today they still refuse to put regional commuter trains on the missing 56k in Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall despite congested motorways and main roads. Instead, they only want to resurrect the 1990s 87k eight lane Western Orbital Motorway.

Always money for roads and colossally expensive trams but nothing to finish 56k of ready and waiting railway lines that are empty of trains. These people have more money than sense and no sense of priorities.

**TIM WELLER**  
Halesowen

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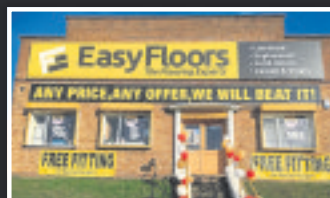
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# First deal struck over £25m light rail innovation centre

**PLANS for a £25 million very light rail innovation centre in Dudley have been given a boost with the first deal struck to test vehicle prototypes on its track.**

Coventry City Council has confirmed its intention to use the test track in Dudley once it is built.

It comes as Dudley Council's cabinet is expected to approve funding to allow development work to continue "at pace" for the pioneering centre, which is proposed for a site near Castle Hill.

## House of Fraser chain ask for £50m

HOUSE of Fraser has asked its lenders for another £50 million after winning backing for the drastic rescue plan that will see half its stores closed, including Beatties in Wolverhampton, with the loss of 6,000 jobs.

At the same time the company is expecting around £70m in new money from Chinese company C.banner as part of a deal to buy 51 per cent of the business. That deal was tied to House of Fraser winning the backing from enough lenders and landlords for the rescue plan, which sacrifices 31 of its 59 stores to save the rest of the business, which employs 17,500 people in total.

The company sent letters to bondholders on Friday saying its proposals were "central to the ongoing significant restructuring of the business". The chain told bond holders that C.banner would "introduce significant new capital to House of Fraser".

As part of its ambition to develop very light rail travel for Coventry, working with the Warwick Manufacturing Group, Coventry council will use the test track in Dudley to carry out research and develop vehicle prototypes. Coventry chiefs say they will also be seeking funding for a potential extension to the track in Dudley.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley council, said: "This is fantastic news for Dudley. Very light rail innovation is at the heart of our regeneration plans and we see it as a real game changer in the development of travel solutions worldwide."

### Interest

"The first phase of this £25 million project will deliver the test track and innovation main building. The test track isn't even built yet and we're already attracting interest from other authorities. Depending on the progress of the planning application and all funding being in place we are looking to begin work on the test track and innovation centre in early 2019."

The council's cabinet were yesterday (Wednesday) considering an amendment to the funding of the preliminary stages of the project. Councillor Harley added: "We're looking to bring forward £130,000 in funding."

## Striking new village memorial statue



The new Belbroughton sculpture Picture: Douglas Harold Smith

A STRIKING silhouette style statue as been unveiled in a village near Stourbridge to highlight the sacrifice of those who died or were injured serving during the First World War.

Belbroughton History Society has unveiled the sculpture in the village as part of First World War commemorations.

Created by artist Paul Margetts, it depicts two servicemen with their rifles pointed downwards, to symbolise peace. The work, which was inspired by the Belbroughton Legion statue, was unveiled at the Belbroughton village green by members of the history society.

One of those who helped bring the idea to life, Douglas Harold Smith, said that around 50 people turned out to see the sculpture's unveiling.

Mr Smith said: "I think it is immensely important. When you look at the impact (of the war) on this small village, it was quite a colossal impact."

"These guys were just normal people, it is important for us to know the sacrifice these men made. These men did not ask to die."

Of the sculpture, he said: "The artist used a sheet of metal then cut out the soldier. When we had the unveiling on the morning and we draped the works in Union Jacks."

"There were about 50 people there and we had two poems read out, In Flanders Fields by John McCrae and A Shropshire Lad by Alfred Edward Housman."

## Goulds shuts down after half a century

AN INDEPENDENT electrical store that has served the Black Country for over half a century has closed.

Goulds TV in Bilston Street, Sedgley, has gone into liquidation and its premises are shuttered.

The business shut for the last time in May with staff given just five days notice after corporate recovery specialists Butcher Woods of Birmingham were appointed as liquidators of the business, which sold televisions, cookers, fridges, microwaves and a wide range of other domestic appliances.

It was also the sole remaining specialist records shop in the village.

The shop was originally in High Street and later moved to the former Co-op store in Bilston Street in the 1980s. The premises were leased from the Co-op.

### Brothers

At one time the business, which was started by four brothers, also has shops in the Mander Centre in Wolverhampton, Bilston and Great Bridge.

Former director, the late Harry Gould was the chairman of Sedgley Business Watch, and the village association of traders for many years. He led efforts to buy Christmas lights for the village and campaigned to reduce crime in the area.

Goulds was part of the international Euronic association of electrical retailers which operates in 36 countries.

The repair business that served Goulds for nearly 20 years is continuing. It is a separate business, Wash-erwise, run by Eddie Johnson, of Wolverhampton.

Mr Johnson has taken over the old Goulds telephone number 01902 664121 and is continuing to offer a repair service to former Goulds customers and act as a local contact for Euronic.

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# 'Zero tolerance' litter blitz raises £82k in fines

**COUNCIL** chiefs in Dudley borough are clamping down on littering with nearly £82,000 in fines handed out in three months.

In March, April and May this year more than 1,092 notices have been issued in Dudley – compared with just 14 for the same period last year.

Each Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued is £75 – totalling £81,900 in fines issued over the three-month period.

It comes after a team of ex-police and military personnel equipped with body cameras took over patrolling the borough's streets, parks and open spaces in March.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said the council have a 'zero tolerance' approach to anyone caught littering.

Kingdom Enforcement Services has five officers on the beat plus one team leader overseeing operations during a 12-month pilot, which will also cover dog fouling.

## Penalties

The move does not cost the council with Kingdom receiving payment directly as a percentage of the financial penalties issued to those who drop litter or fail to pick up after their pets.

The local authority also retains a percentage of the income from the fixed penalty notices.

Councillor Shakespeare said: "Residents and business have told us that they want to see tougher action against those who blight our landscapes with littering and dog fouling.

"We have a zero tolerance approach towards anyone caught committing these offences and we are pleased to



Councillor Karen Shakespeare says people who litter the borough face being fined see Kingdom's new enforcement getting swiftly to work."

Mark Mountford, business manager for Kingdom, added: "Our results speak for themselves and the message is simple – if you drop litter or don't pick up after your dogs, there is a good chance you'll be caught and hit in the pocket."

Kingdom has worked with more than 30 local authorities across the

country, including Wolverhampton City Council and Birmingham City Council.

Kingdom issued more than 9,000 FPNs in Wolverhampton last year after being taken on by the local authority in the middle of 2015. Comparative figures before they took over in that city show just 25 FPNs were handed out between April 2014 and March 2015.

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# MEP calls for national debate on cannabis

A WEST Midlands MEP has called for a national debate on the legalisation of cannabis.

UKIP politician and former Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said there were 'countless cases of anecdotal evidence' to suggest that cannabis has beneficial effects on the treatment of certain illnesses.

In a video message on social media, Mr Etheridge said that if marijuana was legalised, regulated and taxed, the potential damage of the drug could be minimised.

He said: "It is undeniable that the time is right for a serious national debate.

"The most powerful argument against people smoking weed in the UK over recent years is that it can have detrimental effects on the mental health of some people and that new types of skunk have become more powerful and harmful - surely if the product is legalised, regulated and taxed, we can minimise the damage.

"Properly regulated supplies will ensure that the products with the damaging new varieties included can be banned."

Mr Etheridge concluded: "Let's encourage a serious national debate and hopefully update our outdated approach to this really important issue."

It comes as Home Secretary Sajid Javid authorised Bill Caldwell, aged 12, who suffers with severe epilepsy' one of the bottles of cannabis oil confiscated by airport officials after his mother tried to bring them into the UK from Canada.

## Smart move for TV stars



TV property personalities Phil Spencer and Kirstie Allsopp with comedian Susan Calman promoting smart meters at Merry Hill

TV property stars Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer paid a whistle-stop visit to the Black Country with comedian and Strictly Come Dancing star Susan Calman as part of a campaign to encourage householders to get energy-saving smart meters fitted in their homes.

Customers at the Merry Hill shopping centre, in Brierley Hill, saw the Location, Location, Location duo and the TV comedy panel

show regular. Kirstie said the campaign, which is taking them to shopping centres from Bristol to Glasgow and many points in between, was about informing people.

She said: "Everyone is enthusiastic about it. It is a win-win." Phil added: "You are either part of the problem of wasting energy and costing yourself too much money or you are part of the solution."

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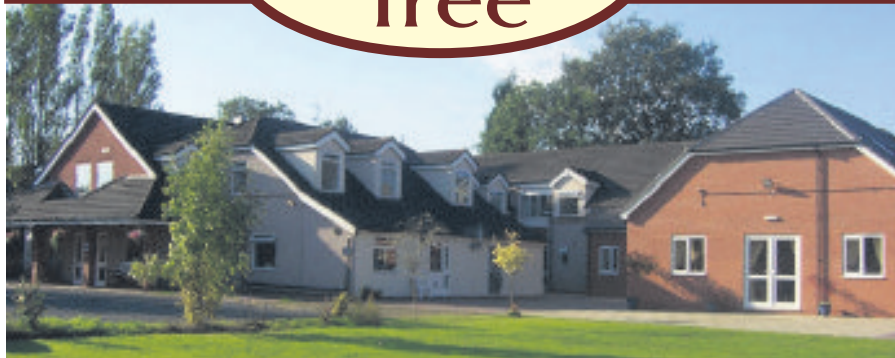
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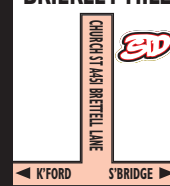
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# Law staff aiming to scale new heights for hospital



Talbots Law charity bike ride and walk fundraisers for Birmingham Children's Hospital pictured at Hagley Hall

**MORE than 40 staff from a Black Country law firm are swapping their day roles for hiking boots and Lycra to raise more than £10,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.**

Solicitors and legal support staff from Talbots Law will be climbing Snowdon, England and Wales' largest mountain, in July, whilst a team of directors – Callum Haynes, Matt

Wistow and Peter Hill – will be tackling a mammoth London to Paris bike ride.

The two challenges were announced at the firm's quarterly Breakfast Club, a networking event that attracts over 70 professionals and local businesses at Hagley Hall.

Kirsty White, corporate fundraising officer at Birmingham Children's Hospital, gave a powerful insight into the work the charity does, looking after 90,000 children and young people every year.

"We are looking to raise more than £30,000 in 2018 and have already donated £10,000 to get the fundraising off to a great start," explained Mary Mocklow, chief executive of Talbots Law.

"The charity has supported a number of our staff so it's a cause close to our heart and everyone is getting involved."

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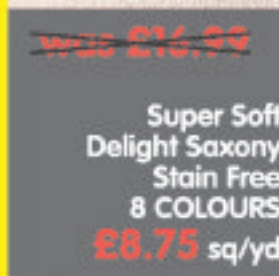
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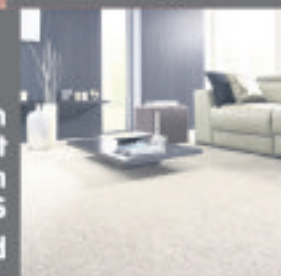
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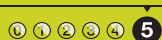
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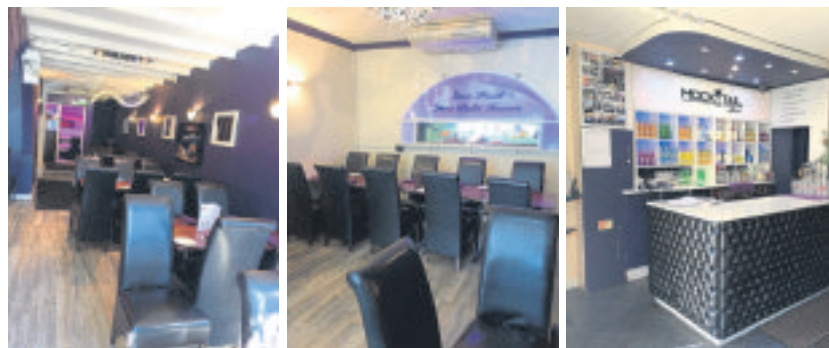


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# NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN

## JFB Gates and Railings are proud to announce the opening of their brand new showroom based in Netherton .

The showroom is now available for the public to roam around and take in the craftsmanship and quality of the products that JFB produce. Managing Director Martin Silvers said " Having the new showroom allows potential clients to see all the different designs and patterns that they may choose from , although most of our work is bespoke to each customer. We like to give every job we take on its own individuality and allow the client to help with the design and look that they want ."

JFB Gates & Railings is a highly reputable family run business that is based in the West Midlands. As a company they thrive on delivering customers with excellent results along with a high quality Customer Service. All Gates and Railings are painted black as standard although they can be zined if required.

JFB Gates & Railings specialise in wrought iron gates , Railings and Balustrades. Martin Silvers said " Our company are able to provide customers with hand crafted wrought iron entrance gates, both manual and automatic, which will help to increase your homes security along with adding a touch of elegance to your home or property. With automatic gates we can install various systems such as intercom entry systems, digital code key phone entry systems, key systems and remote systems

### "Wrought Iron Gates

JFB manufacture wrought iron gates, railings and balustrades to your required design and sizes. All gates and railings are made from high quality steel. Gates can be galvanised or powder coated if requested to give you many years free from maintenance. They have an excellent choice of colours, floral panels and scrolls available for your gate along with being able to add your own monogram or silhouettes.

### Railings

If you would like to view some examples of JFB'S gates and railings then please to visit our brand new showroom or visit our gallery page on their website. All of the work carried out by the company is of the highest quality and is installed by a professional team who have over 45 years worth of experience! They can provide a wide variety of styles and finishes to meet our customers exact design specification.



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Martin Said "Our company is able to offer free no-obligation quotations along with friendly and helpful advice. No matter what your requirements may be we are certain that we can help. Our services are available to both private and commercial customers throughout the West Midlands and all of the surrounding areas. For more regarding



our wrought iron gates , Railings and Balustrades please contact us "

**You can contact Martin Direct on 01384 513823 / 07793 753320, Email :info@jfbgatesandrailings or visit the showroom at Unit 20, Waterside Ind Est , Marriot Road Dudley , DY2 9RG.**

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# It's always best to play the baddies

It's won more than 85 international awards. Matilda The Musical is the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company, inspired by the beloved book by the incomparable Roald Dahl.

With the book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda The Musical is the story of an extraordinary little girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

The show continues to delight audiences in London, Australia and on tour around the USA and a major new production will open at Birmingham Hippodrome on Tuesday, running until September 8.

It stars Craigie Els, who will reprise the role of Miss Trunchbull having played her in the West End for three years between 2014 and 2017. He will be joined by Carly Thoms as Miss Honey, and Sebastian Torkia and Rebecca Thornhill as Mr and Mrs Wormwood.

Craigie trained at Drama Studio London and Aberystwyth University before going on to appear in a series of hit shows. He loves playing Miss Trunchbull and is thrilled to bring it out of the West End to Birmingham.

"Baddies are always the best to play, plus I am too old to play Matilda so there is no chance there. With the role of Miss Trunchbull, I think everyone who has played it will agree that roles like that don't come along that often, they are beautifully written characters but yet so mean and horrible that it gives you the chance to make them as real and as mean as possible but also make them entertaining at the same time. It is most definitely a wonderful and unique challenge and that's why I have enjoyed doing it for so long. Roles like this do not come along that often.

"In the West End you get pretty much a West End crowd with a lot of tourists, so it's nice to take the show to regional places and have local crowds come and watch it and we are in our second venue of the tour and already the crowds are loving it."

## PLEASURE

Craigie decided to get into acting as a teenager. It was a surprise to his family but they were supportive and eventually thrilled when he made a go of it.

"I decided that when I was about 15 or 16 that I wanted to do acting and it was a bit of a shock to my family because there were no drama clubs near me and my school didn't even offer it as a subject at GCSE or A Level.

For me, it came from enjoying making my friends laugh and making my mum and nan giggle on the weekends. I found that pleasure in entertaining people and I decided I wanted to pursue that. So I went to university and studied drama at Aberystwyth University for three years and then after that I went and did a one-year postgraduate at Drama Studio London where I was able to concentrate more on the practical side of it all. After that like the thousands of others, I left drama school and joined the big wide world and started to audition for things."

Craigie isn't the only one happy that Matilda is on the road. Dennis Kelly, who wrote the show, said: "It's been a long time coming but I'm delighted that we get to take Matilda around the UK and to Ireland. We have some fantastic theatres, supported by smart, engaged audiences and we can't wait to bring this crazy, messy, anarchic explosion of a show to them."

Tim Minchin, who wrote the show's

Award-winner – Matilda The Musical arrives in Birmingham



music and lyrics, said: "I – like millions of others – feel like Roald Dahl is in my blood, because I grew up with his books. So to have contributed to a piece of work that brings one of his most famous stories to life is one of my life's great joys. I'm utterly thrilled that audiences in cities all across the UK and Ireland will now share and be part of Matilda's story."

And Catherine Mallyon, RSC executive director, adds: "We are thrilled our

home-grown miracle, which started life after a seven year gestation in Stratford-upon-Avon, has grown into a bit of a global phenomenon. Following Matilda's successful run on Broadway, our current tours around North America, Australia and New Zealand, and continuing into our sixth year at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, it is fantastic that we can share Matilda with audiences around the UK and in Ireland. In collaboration with our touring partners we will also deliver a programme of ground-breaking interactive education projects to enable young people to emulate

*I – like millions  
of others – feel  
like Roald Dahl is  
in my blood*

Matilda, sharing the extraordinary power of story-telling and the boundless creativity of their imaginations."

Matilda The Musical has now been seen by more than 7.7 million people worldwide. Having swept the board at the 2012 Olivier Awards, with a record-breaking seven awards, and winning four Tony Awards and a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre for the four girls sharing the title role on Broadway, Matilda The Musical has now played in more than 60 cities and has played 5,500 performances worldwide.

After winning a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Musical in 2015, the Australian and New Zealand tour has now played sold-out seasons in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Auckland. In July 2016, Matilda The Musical broke further records by winning all 13 Helpmann Awards for which it was nominated. The show will have its first non-English language production at the LG Arts Centre in Seoul, South Korea from September 2018 until February 2019.

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott



## Beautiful duo are back together at Forest Live

IT'S been a remarkable return to the top for singer Paul Heaton.

The former Housemartins and Beautiful South singer seemed to have drifted from the nation's radar as a run of solo albums failed to reach the same dizzy heights as records with his former bands.

However, since reuniting with former Beautiful South singer Jacqui Abbott with 2014's What Have We Become?, Heaton has enjoyed a new lease of life.

The duo will be in concert on Saturday at Cannock Chase for Forest Live with support from Billy Bragg.

What Have We Become? earned Heaton and Abbott a gold disc, glowing reviews and a series of sell-out shows. The follow-up, Wisdom, Laughter and Lies, was another hit.

Heaton said he'd felt honoured to renew his working relationship with Abbott, having played together in The Beautiful South for six years from 1994 to 2000.

He said: "Jacqui is one of the best singers I've worked with and is also part of my past. That album came together easily because we work so well together. The album title Wisdom, Laughter and Lies derived from a line in one of the songs and it sort of summed up where I was in life."

Abbott said: "It's just great to be singing again. We had such a good run together previously and it's just a real pleasure to be working with him again and singing these fantastic songs."

Last year the duo resumed their partnership for their third collaborative record, Crooked Calypso.

## By George, travel broadens the mind



George Ezra will be enjoying the great outdoors this summer with a series of festival and racecourse concerts, including his headline set at Forest Live on Cannock Chase this Sunday.

Ezra is one of the biggest selling male artists of the decade and destined for more success thanks to chart-topping second album, Staying At Tamara's and single Shotgun, fast becoming THE song of summer 2018.

His debut, Wanted On Voyage,

was certified four times platinum in the UK, and was amongst the top 10 biggest selling artist albums in this country in both 2014 and 2015, reaching number one in the UK chart and spending 122 weeks in the chart. It yielded hit singles Budapest and Blame It On Me.

In little more than 18 months, the tall mellow-voiced singer-songwriter from Hertfordshire went from virtual unknown to one of the biggest international breakthrough artists of recent times with a top 10 album in 10 countries and three sold out UK tours.

George returned last summer with a new single Don't Matter Now

and sold out tour, and a summer of festival performances.

His new album features hit singles Paradise and Shotgun. Like his debut, Staying At Tamara's was inspired by George's travels - including spells on the Isle of Skye; at a pig farm in Norfolk; in a shed in Kent; a converted cow shed in Wales; and an Airbnb in Barcelona owned by the Tamara of the title. The result is a finger-snapping, brass-blaring, wind-in-the-hair album that shines with positivity alongside moments of reflection.

His concert will be the last of three sold out nights at Forest Live.

## Marley brings reggae sounds from Stony Hill

Grammy Award winner Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley is in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday. The youngest son of reggae legend Bob Marley, Damian garnered his own place in music history when he became the first ever reggae artist to win a Grammy outside the 'Reggae' category, taking home an award for 'Best Urban/Alternative' performance for his 2005 breakthrough single Welcome To Jamrock. He has gone on to collaborate with Gwen Stefani, Nas, Cypress Hill, Sean Paul, Skrillex and with Jay-Z, featuring on the latter's track Bam from the 4.44 album.

Marley's fourth studio album Stony Hill won last year's Grammy for best reggae album, marking the third time the 39-year-old singer, songwriter and record producer has won the award.

## High standard of food and ales

The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

"Alongside our carvery, we have an extensive menu with a range of foods to suit any and every palate. We are proud to offer exquisite beef steaks, also sourced locally, and are all cooked to perfection.

"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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## Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

### Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

Lots of Exciting upcoming entertainment, look out for their adverts or check out their Facebook page.

## Paloma makes own kind of music

Paloma Faith finally made it to the top of the charts with her fourth album, The Architect. She had enjoyed three successive number two albums but reached the coveted top spot for the first time in November. Her most recent single was a cover of Mann and Weil pop classic Make Your Own Kind Of Music, a hit for Mama Cass Elliot in 1969, helped by its inclusion on TV advertising for Skoda cars. She headlines the first of the weekend's three Forest Live concerts tomorrow (Friday).



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CHOICE



Eric Clapton

**Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, narrated by the man himself, as he charts his six decades in the music business, and why his insatiable desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands, from the Yardbirds and John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers to short-lived supergroups Cream and Blind Faith. Clapton also talks about his battles with drugs and alcohol, his love for George Harrison's wife Pattie Boyd and the tragic loss of his son in an accident. Including archive interviews with BB King, George Harrison and Jimi Hendrix.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Film: Monsters vs Aliens. (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **5.40** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **6.10** BBC News. **6.20** BBC Regional News: Weather. **6.30** Pointless Celebrities. Tim Rice, Don Black, Connie Fisher, Siobhan Dillon, Claire Sweeney, Nigel Planer, Cory English and Phill Jupitus take part. (R) **7.20** Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.00** Inspector George Gently. The first of two final cases for the detective, played by Martin Shaw. Gently is on the brink of retirement when he, Bacchus and Coles re-open the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of justice. However, the investigation places Gently's career on the line and stirs up tension with Bacchus, who worked on the original investigation. (R) **9.30** Mrs Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R) **10.00** BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.20** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.05** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News. **In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:** **2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** Money for Nothing (S, R) **6.10** News (S) **6.20** Local News: Weather (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Mrs Brown's Boys (S, R) **9.45** News: Weather (S) **10.05** Little Fockers (2010) (S) **11.35** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

**6.25** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.45** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **7.15** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.45** The Denzingers. (R) **8.15** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.45** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.15** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.15** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **12.15** Tennis: Eastbourne, The Nature Valley International final. **3.00** Coast. (R) **3.25** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **4.25** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **5.25** The World Cup: Heroes of '66. Dan Walker presents a profile of the World Cup-winning squad managed by Alf Ramsey, featuring interviews with Geoff Hurst, Bobby Moore, Gordon Banks and Jack and Bobby Charlton. (R) **6.00** Managing England: The Impossible Job. A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven-Goran Eriksson. (R) **7.00** Coastal Path. Explorer Paul Rose takes in the north Cornish coast, touring Tintagel Castle, experiencing the hustle and bustle of Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival, and visiting St Ives. (R) **7.30** Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R) **8.00** The NHS: To Provide All People. A film poem charting a day in the life of a regional hospital. Written by Owen Sheers to mark the birth of the NHS 70 years ago and performed by a stellar cast of acting talent. **9.00** Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars. Documentary profiling the blues guitarist, touching on his battles with drugs and alcohol and why his desire to grow his artistic voice led him to quit a stream of successful bands. **11.05** Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner. **12.55** Film: Mea Culpa. (2014) **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.35** Dino Dana. **6.50** Officially Employable. **6.55** The Oddbods Show. **7.05** NinjaGo: Tournament of Elements. **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **9.55** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. **10.55** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.00** ITV Racing: Live from Newcastle. **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** ITV News London: Weather. **6.30** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012) A gifted teenager investigates the secrets hidden in his dead parents' past, leading him to a mysterious corporation and an incident that imbues him with superhuman powers. A personal tragedy drives him to use his new-found abilities to fight crime, and he is soon drawn into a deadly battle against a former colleague of his father, who has undergone a devastating transformation of his own. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Rhys Ifans. **9.00** Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua. Adventurer Bear Grylls teaches the unified world heavyweight champion some alternative survival skills. The duo start off on the notorious Commando Ridge in Cornwall, where the boxer has to climb granite rock, alpine traverses and sharp pinnacles. Next, Bear surprises AJ with a tricky descent – a major challenge for anyone nervous of heights – with a "death drop" on all sides. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.15** Film: Rocky IV. (1985) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. **In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:** **2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News: Weather (S) **6.15** Local News: Weather (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua (S, R) **10.00** News: Weather (S) **10.20** Rocky IV (1985) (S) **12.05** Jackpot247 **3.00** Mr Selfridge (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Further coverage from the ninth round of the season at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. **12.25** F1 Meets Murray Walker. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from Red Bull Ring in Spielberg (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.45** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 News. **6.20** Film: Titanic. (1997) A party of explorers studying the sunken remains of the famous liner meets an elderly woman who was a passenger on the ill-fated maiden voyage. She recounts how she boarded the ship while on the brink of being forced into marriage by her family, and was stopped from killing herself by a penniless artist. She fell in love with her saviour, but the disaster on the horizon meant their time together was doomed to be short. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates and Bill Paxton. **10.00** Film: Taken 2. (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills fights to rescue his ex-wife from an Albanian gangster whose son he killed. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson and Famke Janssen. **11.50** Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game. The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire, regaling his audience with tales of middle age, marriage and a man's prerogative. (R) **1.20** The Big Narstie Show. The Grime MC and co-host Mo the Comedian present a late-night, alternative entertainment show, joined by celebrity guests to discuss the week's news, TV and trends. (R) **2.15** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Joel decides to focus on Cleo's health and buys them both fitness watches, while Holly is worried she has made a big mistake. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps a couple transform their suburban seas (R) **4.45** Wedding Town. The staff faces one of the busiest days of the year. (R) **5.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Marijana takes fashion inspiration from Noel. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.05** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon. **4.10** Access. **4.15** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde. (2003) Concluded. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00** The Wonderful World of Puppies. **6.00** Blind Date. Paul O'Grady hosts as model and self-confessed attention seeker Plum and dancer Josee each choose between three unseen suitors, based on their answers to a series of questions. **7.00** Karen Carpenter: Goodbye to Love. Part-dramatised documentary detailing the pop icon's career through the 1970s, when she and older brother Richard clocked up 80 million record sales, to her untimely death from anorexia nervosa. At the age of 32, Richard's addiction to prescription sleeping pills is also explored, as is Karen's abuse of a variety of drugs including laxatives, vomit-inducing syrup and thyroid medication which she illicitly took to speed up her metabolism. Featuring testimony from friends and Carpenters insiders, including Karen's lovers, close advisers and singer Dionne Warwick. Narrated by Iain Glenn. (R) **9.00** Carpenters: Their Greatest Hits. Performances and official music videos of 16 songs featuring the brother-and-sister duo. Narrator Ken Bruce also offers interesting facts regarding Richard and Karen's act. (R) **10.00** The Michael McIntyre Story. Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame, examining his breakthrough performance at the 2006 Royal Variety show and role in the reinvention of stand-up comedy on TV. (R) **11.30** Michael McIntyre: Live at the Comedy Store. The comedian performs at the famous Soho comedy club. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **2.40** Film: Fight Club. (1999) **5.00** Access. **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four** **7.00** Earth's Greatest Spectacles **8.00** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Timeshift: The Rules of Rinking **11.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **12.00** Indie Classics at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1985 **1.30** Duran Duran: A Night In **2.30** Simon King's Shetland Diaries **3.30** Close **ITV2** **11.40** Catchphrase **12.25** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.50** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Beethoven (1992) **4.35** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **6.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** CelebrityAbility **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **3.00** Vera **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Maigret **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **12.00** Cash Cowboys **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **3.40** Film: The Alamo (1960) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: The Alamo (1960) **6.55** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.20** Minder **2.20** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.05** The Goldbergs **1.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.05** Young Sheldon **2.40** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **4.15** Rude (ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother **Film4** **11.00** Fletch (1985) **1.00** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **2.50** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **4.40** Night at the Museum (2006) **6.50** Ride Along (2014) **9.00** Commando (1985) **10.45** Green Room (2015) **12.35** Blue Ruin (2014) **2.20** In Fear (2013) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



**Romesh Ranganathan**

**The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan (BBC2, 9pm)**

New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters. Accompanied by journalist Jeremy Dupain, he visits the iron market, attends voodoo ceremonies, and explores a cathedral destroyed by an earthquake.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Points of View. **1.30** Songs of Praise. **2.05 Film:** The Silent Child. (2017) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Wanted Down Under. (R) **4.25** Money for Nothing. (R) **5.10** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.30 BBC News.**

**6.50 BBC Regional News:** Weather.

**7.00 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor present the show from Dorset, visiting a nature reserve famous for birds or prey and meeting a couple with a thriving sea fishing business. Plus, Adam Henson visits a farm that is helping people to rebuild their lives. Tom Heap reports on the challenges facing rural schools, and Anita Rani meets one of the contenders in the show's search for a young presenter.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce visits Floors Castle in Roxburghshire, where items include a piece of Robert Burns memorabilia, a diamond pendant and a jade figurine that is not quite what it seems. A marble carving of a baby is the hit of the day for Marc Allum, while a fragile cup and saucer that have survived unscathed since the 18th century are another rare find.

**9.00 Poldark.** Ross, Sam and Dwight race to the rescue when blasting in the mines causes a disastrous flood. Ossie plans to have Morwenna committed to an asylum.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 BBC Regional News:** Weather.

**10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.**

**11.15 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.**

**12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

**In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:**

**2.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.10** News (S) **5.20** Local News: Weather (S) **5.30** Countryfile (S) **6.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.10** Poldark (S) **10.10** News (S) **10.30** Local News: Weather (S) **10.40** Celebrities on the NHS Frontline (S, R) **11.40** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay (S) **1.25** BBC News (S)

BBC2

**6.25** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.10** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** Countryfile. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** Wimbledon 2017 Review. **12.00** Athletics: Diamond League Paris Highlights. **1.00** Live Athletics: British Championships. The second and final day from Birmingham. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30 Film:** Into the Woods. (2014) A wicked witch agrees to lift a curse on a young couple if they will help restore her once beautiful looks. Musical fantasy starring Meryl Streep and Emily Blunt.

**7.30 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** Paul and Bob fish for barbel in Hay-on-Wye, and sample the great outdoors in spectacular fashion when Mortimer decides to strip in celebration of their catch. (R)

**8.00 Russia with Simon Reeve.** On the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, adventurer Simon Reeve embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country. He begins in Russia's far east, and the snow-capped volcanoes of Kamchatka and Yakutia, where reindeer herders live in temperatures as low as minus 30. Outside the eastern port of Vladivostok, Simon investigates the growing influence of China on the area, then passes through the Boreal Forest, where he meets a conservationist dedicated to protecting the Amur tiger. His final destination is a giant hole in the ground in Siberia. (R)

**9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan.** New series. The comedian visits countries that are rarely visited by tourists to get a sense of the local culture and find out if they deserve their reputation. His first destination is Haiti, a country mostly famous for a dictatorship and a series of natural disasters.

**10.00 Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** Shortly after FBI director James Comey is fired, The Times is onto a huge scoop with ongoing reverberations regarding Comey's memos about his meetings with President Trump.

**11.00 Best of Glastonbury 2017.** Jo Whaley and Mark Radcliffe introduce highlights from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. (R)

**1.10** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Embodyable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo. Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.25** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **11.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **2.30** Countrywise. (R) **3.00 Film:** Despicable Me. (2010) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

**6.00** ITV News: Weather.

**6.15** ITV News London: Weather.

**6.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** Paul and the staff try an unconventional technique to calm down an over-excited mongrel.

**7.00 Vera.** A mother of two is found murdered in her back garden. Vera and Aiden investigate the case, and delve into the disturbing secrets and ongoing conflicts that lurk beneath the surface of the victim's seemingly peaceful suburban community. The case takes a more complicated turn when the dead woman's estranged family make an unexpected reappearance, and while several of her neighbours may have had cause to carry out a crime of passion, her relatives may have had compelling motives of their own to kill.

**9.00 Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera.** Documentary series looking at what can go wrong on holiday, including a ski trip that became a fight for survival, and a horrific case of sunburn. (R)

**10.00** ITV News: Weather.

**10.15** FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. **11.15** The Big Fish Off. (R)

**12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

**In the event of live football being shown, the schedule may run as follows:**

**2.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **5.15** Catchphrase (S, R) **6.00** News (S) **6.15** Local News (S) **6.30** FIFA World Cup 2018 (S) **9.15** Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera (S, R) **10.00** News: Weather (S) **10.20** Killer Women with Piers Morgan (S, R) **11.15** The Big Fish Off (S, R) **12.10** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK 2018 (S, R) **3.50** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S, R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.30** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.00** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.25** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the ninth round of the season. **1.40** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the ninth round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.30** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the ninth round of the season. **5.30** Bang on Budget.

**6.30 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Escape to the Chateau.** As Dick and Angel prepare for winter, they attend a food festival in Rouen, where they hope to find inspiration over what to do with their fresh fruit and vegetables. Angel adds the finishing touches to the floating geodesic dome in time for a family sleepover, while Dick gets to work fixing the crumbling stucco. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the semi-final of the culinary contest, in which the four remaining teams must take on a secret recipe challenge, create a three-tiered cake, and rise to the unusual challenge of "live plating" to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin and win a place in next week's final.

**9.00 The Handmaid's Tale.** An incident sends shockwaves through both Gilead and Little America. Serena Joy makes a dangerous choice in order to protect her family. Moira searches for someone from her past.

**10.15 Night and Day.** Spanish crime thriller in which a forensic pathologist is drawn into a dangerous web of torture and scandal surrounding an elusive killer after a man she slept with is killed. The full series is available online.

**11.20 Film: Alien.** (1979) A cargo spacecraft is invaded by a deadly creature that begins preying on the crew. Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror, with Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Ian Holm and John Hurt.

**1.40** The Last Leg. (R) **2.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **3.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **4.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **5.05** Cheap Cheap Cheap. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.55** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Floogals. (R) **9.10** Ben and Holly's Little White Van. (R) **9.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **11.10** Blind Date. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **2.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **3.50** Film: Bewitched. (2005) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell. **4.50** Access. **4.55** Film: Bewitched. (2005) Concluded. **5.55** Film: Bride Wars. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.

**7.25** 5 News Weekend.

**7.30 Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic.** A celebration made for the 30th anniversary of the movie phenomenon starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey first captivated cinemagoers as bad boy choreographer Johnny Castle and would-be dancer Baby. This documentary celebrates the Dirty Dancing phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set – with contributions from cast members Kelly Bishop, Lonny Price and Jane Brucker – and hearing from the behind-the-scenes team, including choreographer Miranda Garrison and writer Eleanor Bergstein. (R)

**9.00 Film: Dirty Dancing.** (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence.

**10.05** News Update.

**10.05** Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Concluded.

**11.05** Film: The Best of Me. (2014) Premiere. Romantic drama, with Michelle Monaghan.

**1.15** Cricket on 5. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** The Search for Alfred the Great **8.00** The World's Biggest Flower Market **9.00** Olympic Dreams of Russian Gold – Over the Limit – Storyville **10.10** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **10.40** The Art of Scandinavia **11.40** The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers **12.40** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **1.40** The Search for Alfred the Great **2.40** Eric Clapton at the BBC – The Rock 'n' Roll Years **3.10** Close

**ITV2**

**12.15** Take Me Out **1.30** Film: Twister (1996) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: Twister (1996) **3.40** Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Two Weeks Notice (2002) **5.45** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** CelebrityAbility **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records

**ITV3**

**6.25** Victoria **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool **3.15** Road to Avonlea **5.00** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**11.15** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **1.05** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **3.00** Live Cycling. Coverage of the National Road Championships **3.00** Film: The Alamo (1960) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: The Alamo (1960) **9.15** Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **10.15** FYI Daily **10.20** Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) **12.00** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.05** Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.05** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**1.00** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.55** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **7.00** Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.05** Gogglebox Australia **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.10** Gogglebox Australia

**Film4**

**1.00** Stuart Little (1999) **2.40** The Return of the Pink Panther (1974) **4.55** Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (2014) **6.50** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** Sicario (2015) **11.20** The Guard (2011) **1.10** Drug War (2012) **3.25** Close

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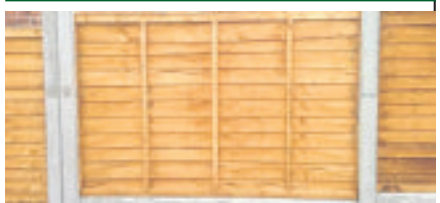
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**Lethal Weapon, Channel 5, 9pm**

An unstable Vietnam veteran cop teams up with a by-the-book Los Angeles police detective to investigate the apparent suicide of the daughter of a wealthy businessman, leading them to a violent and bloody confrontation with a ruthless drug cartel under the control of a retired US general. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Gary Busey, Mitchell Ryan and Tom Atkins. (1987)

TUESDAY

**Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)



Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY

**What Maisie Knew, Channel 4, 12.55am**

A six-year-old girl finds herself a pawn in the ongoing divorce of her self-absorbed mother and father, who are both desperate to get custody of the child but blind to her own feelings. As both parents begin disastrous new relationships, the youngster is forced to develop an unexpected maturity to cope with her situation. Drama, starring Julianne Moore. (2012)

THURSDAY

**Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

FRIDAY

**Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.50pm**

The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. However, when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

## The NHS Choir look to find their singing voice

There have been lots of programmes to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, and many of them have made a point of celebrating the service's unsung heroes.

But now those unsung heroes get a chance to belt out a tune for all they are worth as part of The NHS Big Singalong Live.

That's because the NHS Choir is being joined by popstars and celebrities in a bid to smash the world record for the biggest live singalong ever to be broadcast.

The song they will be performing is The Beatles' classic With a Little Help from My Friends (presumably more people knew the words to that than to the Fab Four's more medically minded Doctor Robert).

But breaking a record doesn't just take dedication, it also requires organisation, and in this programme presenters Sara Cox and Ashley Banjo follow the build-up to the big event.

It's a cause that's clearly close to both their hearts. Sara said: "It is so

exciting to be part of this challenge to break a world record and celebrate the amazing work of the NHS. We'll be travelling the length and breadth of the UK recruiting people to join in to make sure we smash that record and show everyone working in our NHS how much we appreciate them."

Ashley added: "We want to recognise and celebrate the hardworking and dedicated staff who keep the NHS going every day and highlight the human kindness at the heart of the incredible care and treatment they make available to every single one of us."

The pair will be charting the progress of choirmasters doctor Katie Rogerson and NHS worker Joe Blunden as they scour the health service for potential warblers, while also recruiting a few famous performers as well.

In the process, we'll meet some extraordinary patients and staff, and find out why some of the celebrity recruits have very personal reasons for wanting to support the NHS.

Once the singers are assembled, the presenters will be joining the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir and their famous friends at the iconic Abbey Road studios, where the Beatles recorded the original track.

And more choirs and staff will be joining in the live broadcast from hospitals and other locations across the UK, with one group performing on the cobbles of Coronation Street.

Hopefully, it will be a record-breaking effort, but Joe Blunden's ambitions don't quite stop there. Cameras will capture the excitement when a version of the song is also recorded at Abbey Road, ready to be released as a charity single.

Joe says: "We are determined to both smash that live singalong record and get to number one!"

And seeing as the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir previously held Justin Bieber at bay to claim the 2015 Christmas number one with A Bridge Over You, maybe, with a little help from the health service's many friends, his dream will come true.



The NHS Big Singalong Live, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

**David Walliams Presents - Return of Alright on the Night**

Now that clips of on-camera mishaps can be shared around the world online, is there still a place for it'll be Alright on the Night on TV? Well, if anyone can persuade us there's still life in the format (which many viewers will forever associate with the now 96-year-old Denis Norden), it's David Walliams. Here, the Britain's Got Talent judge, children's author and all-round one-man-entertainment industry will bring us a selection of classic outtakes, as well as some brand new clips. And if that doesn't sate your appetite for watching TV presenters get it wrong, there's a second edition showing on Tuesday. But the question remains, will Walliams have inherited Norden's trademark clipboard?

TUESDAY

**Our Girl**

**BBC1, 9.10pm**

The team struggles to meet Bone's expectations, but the new leader of 2-Section threatens to send one of them home and bring in another medic, putting Georgie's place at risk. The section are assigned to work in refugee camps to help the influx of refugees coming in from Myanmar, which

have been set up by Barsha Chowdhrey, the wife of the local police chief. Inspector Chowdhrey is known for his hatred of corruption in the region and at a gala held for the Brigadier, Bones spots a suspect package placed underneath his chair, prompting him to leap into action

WEDNESDAY

**Street Food Servants**

**BBC1, 7.30pm**

The fascinating Our Lives strand continues with this documentary, which was originally broadcast last months in the London area, but can now be seen by the rest of the country. Anita Rani tells the story of one man who has devoted his life to helping the homeless. Randeep Singh started his small charity in Southall, London, with just a handful of volunteers but has now transformed it into a sophisticated national task force feeding and clothing thousands of people every week. He is now looking to expand, but that brings a new set of challenges.

The Highland Midwife

**Channel 5, 8pm**

Community midwife Hayley



Romper Stomper, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

undertakes a journey from the heart of the Highlands to the city hospital, to help with the delivery of mum Rachel's baby. Meanwhile, in Campbelltown on the west coast, first-time mother Morven is determined to have a local birth and midwife Helen must decide on the safest option for her and the baby, and in Aberdeen, midwife Lydia is assisted by hands-on dad Gordon, who is keen to help deliver his new baby. Narrated by Pam Ferris.

THURSDAY

**Nando's: A PERI PERI Big Success**

**Channel 5, 9pm**

It was founded by Fernando Duarte and Robert Brozin in the Johannesburg suburb Rosettenville in 1987 when they visited a restaurant called Chickenland, and now Nando's has over 1,000 restaurants across the globe, with 400 in the UK alone. So what is the secret of its success? This

documentary tells the story of the food chain from the company's humble beginnings - it almost sank without trace after opening its first UK takeaway in 1992 in Ealing - to the multi-million-pound brand it is today. The programme also looks at what ingredients go into its famous Mozambican-style peri-peri sauce and how social media exposure and celebrity endorsements (Prince William is apparently a fan) have added to its success.

FRIDAY

**Romper Stomper**

**BBC2, 11.05pm**

The 1992 Australian film Romper Stomper, which followed a Neo Nazi group in Melbourne, may have been controversial, but it did help to mark Russell Crowe out as a rising star - it was the movie that persuaded director Curtis Hanson to cast him in LA Confidential. This belated TV sequel may also prove to be a star-making vehicle for its cast, including Toby Wallace as Kane. In this third episode, his mother Gabe (Jacqueline McKenzie, reprising her role from the movie) is heartbroken to discover he's joined a far-right group. Meanwhile, his step-sister Cindi (Markella Kavenagh) has become involved with the anti-fascist movement. So that's setting the scene or a lot of family conflict which threatens to explode in the second half of this double bill.

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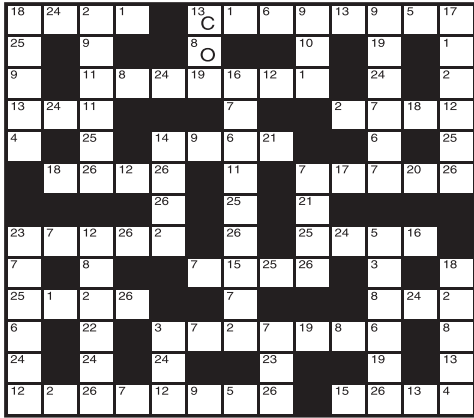


# BRAIN GYM

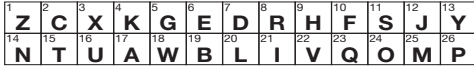
No.486

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

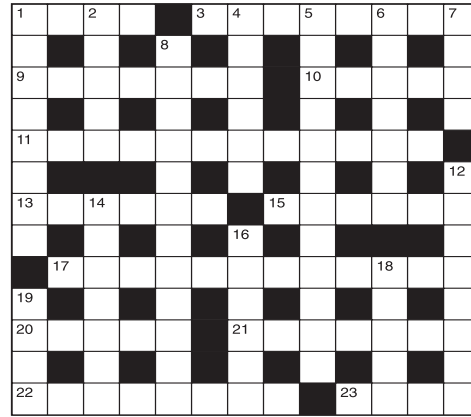
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

1. Neckwear, we hear, for a dandy (4)
3. Agreements for cosmetic containers (8)
9. A classical naval battle - for Italian sausages! (7)
10. A long time coming back to the ring (5)
11. A contest among comedians? (6,2,4)
13. Yet all has been rearranged recently (6)
15. Does artistic work and puts the first of the colours in different sheet (6)
17. One with rank on board lacking magnanimity? (5,7)
20. A certain quantity of fuel I treasured (5)
21. A bit of upper turbulence to cause agitation (7)
22. A request certain to give satisfaction (8)
23. Boss required to equine establishment (4)

#### Down

1. Headquarters Dance in which pitchers are used (8)
2. Apportion a levy that's been raised (5)
4. Son who strangely is being exhibited (2,6)
5. Risk getting your fingers burnt (4,4,4)
6. Sounds like one tricks a wild animal (7)
7. See 14 Down.
8. Brief communications in lower case (5,7)
12. Attributed to the writer in the present era (8)
- 14 & 7Dn. It may be occupied by the stall-holder (7,4)
16. Small change for the policeman (6)
18. It's a place for trying recreation area (5)
19. It's a mistake to depart unobtrusively (4)



### Quick Clues:

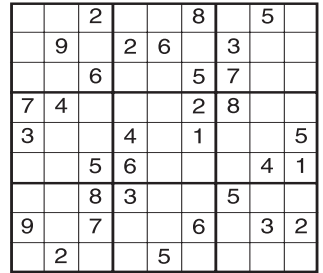
#### Across

1. Irritation (4)
3. Scrawl (8)
9. Imagine (7)
10. Thin silk fabric (5)
11. Parsimony (6-6)
13. Stagger back (6)
15. Picture-house (6)
17. Unavailing (12)
20. Edible bulb (5)
21. Feeling (7)
22. Urgent (8)
23. At one time (4)

#### Down

1. Unsafe (8)
2. Coppice (5)
4. Eerie (6)
5. Pause (7)
6. Poise (7)
7. A paradise (4)
8. Components (12)
12. Mode of speech (8)
14. Entrust (7)
16. Shelter (6)
18. Sham (5)
19. Ceremony (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	6	3	2	1	4	7	9	5
1	2	4	5	9	7	6	3	8
9	7	5	6	8	3	4	2	1
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2
6	8	7	3	4	2	1	5	9
2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6	7
4	5	8	7	3	9	2	1	6
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	3
3	9	6	8	2	1	5	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Combine; 7 Cover; 9 Scree; 10 Cast out; 12 Stand at ease; 14 Double fault; 18 Writers; 19 Gaffer; 21 Takes; 22 Amnesia. Down: 1 Pouch; 2 Object; 3 End; 4 Bottle; 5 Request; 8 Caravan; 11 Unheard; 13 Poor law; 15 Butter; 16 Leader; 17 Of gin; 20 Imp.  
 QUICK - Across: 6 Jocular; 7 Charm; 9 Broad; 10 Quieten; 12 Deportation; 14 Permissible; 18 Hosier; 19 Impel; 21 Bully; 22 Fatigue. Down: 1 Board; 2 Humane; 3 Gage; 4 Threat; 5 Freedom; 8 Curtail; 11 Consort; 13 Decorum; 15 Mainly; 16 Limpid; 17 Venue; 20 Pay.

## Quiz

1. Which country was rocked by the Recruit scandal?
2. Which soccer hero received a knighthood in the 1994 Queen's Birthday Honours list?
3. What does an entomologist study?
4. What is the capital of New Mexico?
5. In which sport is play started by a 'bully'?
6. What is the US's oldest educational institution?
7. Which country's largest lake is Lake Garda?
8. What do we call a single dot on a computer screen?
9. Which genus of tree includes the peach, the apricot and the cherry?
10. Of which war was the Battle of Crecy the first important battle?

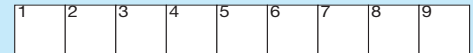
### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Just So Stories; 2 Singapore; 3 Sue Barker; 4 Taffeta; 5 Catherine Parr; 6 Odin; 7 Dutch; 8 New Zealand; 9 A wading bird; 10 Justice of the Peace.  
 Niner: HARMONICS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45689 gives seafood,  
 946817 gives more seafood,  
 43265 gives something found in the sea.



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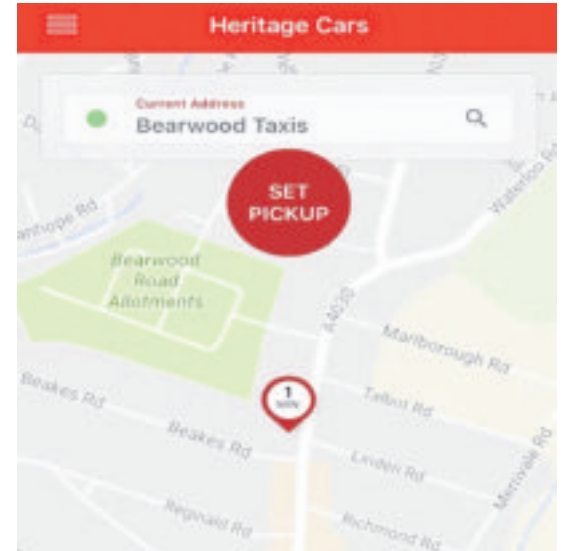
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# Zizzi dishes up a pizza the action

It was a glorious day when we visited Zizzi in Brindleyplace and we'd hoped to sit outside on the terrace out in the sun.

Unsurprisingly, it was full of diners. And so, having clocked that all the outdoor areas at other nearby restaurants were just as busy, we opted to escape the heat and head inside. It was much quieter; it was, in fact, almost empty.

We – the five of us including two heavily pregnant women – all agreed the menu looked delicious and had the standard 'starter and main' or 'main and dessert' debate that women tend to have when they really want starter, main AND dessert.

And so we settled on starters and mains, with the possibility of pud 'if there's room'. The menu is pretty extensive, more than just the pizza and pasta you'd expect at this popular Italian chain.

To start, three of us chose calamari while the others opted for the smoked mozzarella bombetti, otherwise known as 'cheese balls'.

## SQUID

The starters arrived swiftly. My first impression was that all the dishes looked undercooked. The coating on the calamari was so light in colour it was hard to differentiate it from the white of the squid ring beneath, while the breadcrumb shell of the bombettis were much the same.

Disappointingly, the squid was also rather chewy; I suspect it was cooked from frozen rather than fresh. The accompanying garlic and basil dip was pleasant enough. The cheese balls, which came with a red pepper tapanade dip, were devoured without comment. Presentation was good with each dish in a little silver bucket lined with Zizzi branded greaseproof paper.

One of the pregnant women had opted for a bottle

Zizzi Brindleyplace is Birmingham's second



The rustic pizzas served at Zizzi Brindleyplace



of Orchard Pig's Totally Minted. Described as 'pink grapefruit and mint with a zesty twist of lime' it tasted delicious. Another chose the equally refreshing Orchard Pig Flower Power – an apple and elderflower soft drink. Super duper.

Zizzi Brindleyplace is the Second City's second branch with the original in the Mailbox. They've done a grand job on the interior; it feels modern and spacious, there's an open kitchen where you can watch chefs work pizza dough into shape and shovel them on flat paddles into a wood-fired oven. We didn't have to wait long for

our main courses, which also looked as though they'd barely kissed that oven. Pizza crusts, for example, were almost white rather than irresistibly golden brown while cheese was just-melted instead of bubbling hot.

This wasn't a concern for me as I opted for the spaghetti pomodoro, which was beautifully cooked. It came topped with half a ball of juicy, sweet buffalo mozzarella.

The tomato sauce was just sharp enough and the pasta cooked to al dente perfection. With a generous grating of parmesan cheese and an extra drizzle of

olive oil, I lapped it up. Another friend opted for the pulled beef and venison stroganoff – a sort of posh bolognese – and reported that it was very tasty.

The pizza eaters were pleased with their choices too.

We stuck to our plan and skipped dessert although options did sound good.

The bill came to £89, which included an online 25 per cent discount voucher. And while everyone seemed satisfied with their food, no one seemed to be singing its praise either.

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**ROBERT CHESNEY**  
CARPENTRY / JOINERY

KITCHEN FITTING SPECIALIST  
ALL CARPENTRY WORKS  
ROOFS / DOORS / LOCKS  
DECKING SPECIALIST

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE  
**0121 421 6740**  
**07779746939**

## Computers

**NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?**

- All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed
- Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks
- Home Network Implemented • Internet Connections Installed

**DON'T BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC**  
Call: **0121 422 7646** or **07970 846 552**

**JUDRAP PC SUPPORT**  
email: [support@judrap.com](mailto:support@judrap.com) [www.judrap.com](http://www.judrap.com)

## Decorating

**KLH DECORATIVE SERVICES**

**City & Guilds Qualified**  
Fully Insured  
All work guaranteed  
Discounts for O.A.P.

A member of the Dudley Fix-a-home approved contractor scheme

For a free quote call **Tim**  
**07912 149230** **0121 5030694**

**HALESOWEN DECORATORS**  
Painters & Decorators

OAP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE  
10% OFF with this advert  
Residential and Commercial work undertaken  
CALL **07860 206713**  
**0121 602 0966**  
[halesowendecorators@gmail.com](mailto:halesowendecorators@gmail.com)



**Lutley Windows Ltd**

Repairs or Replacement Windows, Doors & Conservatories, Misted Units, UPVC Locksmith

**Great Prices, Free Quotes**  
Call Mark: **07885 917277**  
[www.lutleywindows.co.uk](http://www.lutleywindows.co.uk)

## Driveway & Patio Cleaning

**Driveway/Patio Cleaning**  
**SURFACE CLEANING SPECIALIST**

All hard surfaces cleaned including...  
• Tarmac • Block Paving  
• Brick/Stone work • upvc  
• Slabs/Decking/Fencing

**FREE QUOTATIONS**  
Contact Edward @ Clean Giant  
[pressurecleangiant@gmail.com](mailto:pressurecleangiant@gmail.com)  
Tel: **07849 549104**

**ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE BEATEN BY 10%**

## Driveways

**DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS**

**Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Red Tarmac Car Parks • Resurfacing**  
**5 Year Guarantee On All Work**  
Free Quotations and Advice  
**Checkatrade**

**Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190**  
[www.discountdriveways.co.uk](http://www.discountdriveways.co.uk)

**HURST GREEN DRIVEWAYS**

**HGD**

- ✓ Block Paving
- ✓ Tarmac
- ✓ Concrete
- ✓ Patios
- ✓ Gravel
- ✓ Walls
- ✓ Steps
- ✓ Pressure Washing
- ✓ Fencing
- ✓ Landscaping

**COVERING ALL AREAS**  
**FREE QUOTATIONS**

Call Terry on  
**0121 602 2761** Mobile: **07940 260125**  
17 Merrivale Rd • Halesowen • B62 9RN

## ELECTRICIAN

Fully guaranteed work  
Honest reliable service

**ANT ELECTRIC**

Ring Tony or Julie on  
**07974 428 603**  
**KEEP IT LOCAL**  
**'No Job Too Small'**

**REWIRING EXPERTS.CO.UK**

All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken  
Home rewiring from £800

For a high quality local service call:  
**0121 3690311**  
**07939 503905**

## Driveways & Patios

**JDC Driveways & Patios**

Tarmac, Block Paving, Turf Laying, Graveling, Fencing, Drainage and Pressure Cleaning

**Free Quotation Online**  
No obligation  
**0800 077 6981**  
**07944 883248**  
[www.jdcdriveways.co.uk](http://www.jdcdriveways.co.uk)

## Fencing

**LBT Fencing**

All types of quality fencing supplied & erected  
Plus decking, slabbing & block paving

**FREE QUOTES**  
Tel: **0121 585 9992** or **07884 344616**  
[www.lbtfencing.co.uk](http://www.lbtfencing.co.uk)

## Gardening

**ROWAN TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES**

- Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
- Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
- Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
- Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation

**WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK**  
**01384 213644** or **07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor,  
N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)  
All staff C.R.B. Certified

**LINDOPS LANDSCAPES**

All Landscape Work Undertaken  
No Job Too Small or Too Big  
**FREE QUOTATIONS**  
All aspects of Tree Surgery, Block Paving, Fencing, etc  
Est. 25 Years  
Ex. Botanical Gardener  
**0121-421 2858**  
**07706 - 747960**

**R & S Gardens**

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

**Telephone: 07851 323303**

**Landscapers**

**CARDINAL LANDSCAPES**  
West Midlands  
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping  
Call now for a **FREE QUOTE**  
**01902 562600** or **07539 887144**

## Mot's

**MOT** **AIR CON SERVICE AVAILABLE**  
**£27.99**  
**with this advert FREE RE-TEST**

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0J  
**0121 559 6001** **MOT**

## Plastering

**C.A. Plastering**

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

**No job too small** **07538 718264**

**Local Specialists**

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

**DH PLASTERERS**

FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES**

**0121 422 8594** or **07985 548466**



# Local Specialists



## Garage Doors

### GARAGE DOOR PROBLEM?

REPAIR OR NEW INSTALLATION - WE CAN FIX IT!

WE BASE OUR WORK ON QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY



- Side hinged doors from £975
- Security personnel doors from £375
- Up and over garage doors from £499
- Electric insulated roller doors from £980

CALL US FOR FREE QUOTE TODAY

01384 622 433

07875 530 474

lee@visiongaragedoors.com

Follow us online!

@visiongaragedoors

## DB GARAGE DOORS

- Supply
- Repair
- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
- Roller
- Sectional
- Remote Control Doors

www.dbshutters.co.uk

Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

## Plumbing

**HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING**  
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)  
**All installations and repairs**  
Supply and fit or fit only  
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER  
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes  
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776  
www.household-plumbing.co.uk

## Tiling

### I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.

Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631



## Plumbing & Heating

### P.S. Heating & Plumbing

Combi Boiler change from £950

Specialists in Biasi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more

SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS

NATURAL & LPG GAS

Free Quotation

07961 140885

Fully Insured up to £2 million

safe 301087

### KEN PERRY

PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER

Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing

and Immersion Heaters,

Multi Point Water Heaters,

Landlord's Gas Certificates,

Boilers changed

Guild of Master Craftsmen

Gas Safe Registered

STOURBRIDGE 392284

### Property Maintenance

**K S SERVICES**  
All types of General Repairs  
to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior  
decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
0121 532 4861  
No Job Too Small

## Tiling

## Floor and Wall Tiling

Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone

Walls • Floors • Bathrooms • Kitchens • Conservatories

All work undertaken • Call Tony for a free quote

0121 422 4116 / 07961 604632

## Roofing

### BLACK COUNTRY ROOFING

Fully Qualified Fibre Glass Flat Roofer  
And Home Improvements



- ✓ Fibre Glass Flat Roofing with 25 yr manufacturers guarantee
- ✓ EPDM Rubber Flat Roofing
- ✓ Hot Roofing
- ✓ New slate & tile roofs
- ✓ 2nd Generation Roofers
- ✓ 25 Years Experience
- ✓ Chimneys repaired & resealed
- ✓ Blackwork painting
- ✓ Dry ridge & dry verge systems
- ✓ Exterior painting
- ✓ Brand Repairs
- ✓ Gullies Cleared & Replaced
- ✓ No Money Upfront

### JP PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING UNDERTAKEN

- Flat Roofing
- Fibreglass Roofing
- Painting • Slate Roofing
- Flashing • Fascias
- Soffits • Guttering
- Re-Pointing • Re-Roofing

Tel: 01384 465850

Mob: 07502 898 112

Email: jppropertymaintenance@yahoo.co.uk



Experts in all aspects of roofing

Slating, Tiling, Felt Roofing,  
Single Ply Roofing,  
Chimney Repairs, Lead Work,  
Fascia Boards & Guttering

Fully Insured, NVQ Trained

01299 250785

07810 284112

07584 991127

## ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS

on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,

New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt

and Garage Roofs.

- Rubberised flat roofing

- Flat roof specialist

- Insurance work undertaken

- Est 25 years

- Discounted for OAPs

- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE

SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing

on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,

New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt

and Garage Roofs.

- Rubberised flat roofing

- Flat roof specialist

- Insurance work undertaken

- Est 25 years

- Discounted for OAPs

- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

Home: 01384 872276

Mobile: 07584 081228

## ELITE PLASTICS

- Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
- Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
- Premium Products Expertly Fitted
- With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call

01384 468831 / 07985 575865

www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

## Tree Surgeon

## TREE SURGEONS

11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING

CALL US ON:

07817 553 346

0121 553 1075



info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk  
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

## Skip Hire

### MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

Save £££

All size skips and all areas covered

Same day delivery faster than

A phone call!!!!

Open 7 days a week

SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE

07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56



### ALL RUBBISH REMOVED

WE LOAD FOR YOU

GARDEN, HOUSE, FACTORY, SHOP AND LAND CLEARANCES

From single items to large loads

CHEAPER THAN A SKIP

Immediate onsite quotation

Telephone 7 days a week 8.00am-9.00pm

Tel: 01384 469681

Always a friendly service  
Business Waste Licence  
CB/TP3394LH

## Upholstery

### JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques

CONTRACT & DOMESTIC

No Job Too Small

FREE ESTIMATES

Choice of patterns

Quality Workmanship

0121 561 3977 daytime

or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm





## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

## Free Ads

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to **£250**  
**VISIT:**

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## Place a paid for advert

**By Phone 01902 317878**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.  
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

**Online**  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### Funeral Directors

**N.E. DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

**Independent family run Funeral Directors**  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### Lost & Found

LOST—Ladies red purse, left in Codsall Station Pub, early pm, June 15 if found call 01902 842243.

**1 Family**

**Elderly & Disabled**  
**WORLD OF MOBILITY**  
Stourbridge's longest established Family Run Mobility Store  
Brettle Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.  
**01384 378252**  
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2 Leisure Time**

**Camping Equipment**  
BERGHAUS AIR 4 EXCEL TENT plus footprint and carpet, used once. £500 no offers. 07946 869986.

**Caravans/Motorhomes**

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? [www.bcpark.co.uk](http://www.bcpark.co.uk) 01584823433.

**ABI**  
2 Berth, full cooker, fridge, 240v plus 12v, water heater, heater, shower, toilet, large awning, water carrier, waste and fresh. Sold as seen.  
**£590.**  
01922 477566/07873 535321.

**COMPASS RALLYE GTE**  
460 2-berth.  
Year 2000.  
End bathroom.  
Exceptional condition inside and out.  
Comes with all extras.  
Must be seen.  
**£2,250 ono.**  
01384 440919.

**KAMPA RALEIGH** Air Pro 260 awning with pump and skirt, used once, as new £375. 07970 841177.

**KAMPA RALLY 390** Air Awnin with skirt, 12v pump, only used four times, excellent condition, £375 ono 01902 750873/07745 185108

**Holiday Home for sale - 2017 Wellerby Wrekin**

BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.  
Call Ron or Margaret  
**01743 885080**  
[www.sevenoakspark.co.uk](http://www.sevenoakspark.co.uk)

**STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE**  
Complete with decking. Beach location. Borth, Mid Wales. All fittings and utensils included. Ready to move in site fees paid for 2018. **£8,500 ono.**  
For details ring **07986 690052.**

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
With large decking, on quiet site in Mid Wales. Two fishing pools. Dog Friendly. No age limit. Site fees for 2018 included. **£7,995.**  
07555 303350.

**VW 2011 CAMPERVAN CONVERTED 2017**  
High specification by retired engineer, rock and roll, swivel seats, 922, gas safe etc, new batteries, £600 service, OE alloys, tyres, MoT 2018, never used due to ill health. All offers considered **£20,000 ono.**  
Telephone 01772 436944

**VW TRANSPORTER T25 POP TOP CAMPER**  
Devon Conversion, B reg. 1985, good original condition, 10 months MoT, 5 new tyres and battery, low miles. **£7,995 ono.**  
07733 777999.

### holidays

**Self Catering Holidays**

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
**01278 794111**  
[www.GoSomerset.co.uk](http://www.GoSomerset.co.uk)

**Travel Abroad**

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

**Yorkshire**

**YORKSHIRE DALES**  
Meadow Holidays  
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale  
"Weeks from £209 per couple"  
"Weekends just £99 per couple"  
Families Welcome  
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns  
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145  
email: [rita@meadowholidays.com](mailto:rita@meadowholidays.com)  
[www.meadowholidays.com](http://www.meadowholidays.com)

**mind, body & soul**

**Massage**

Mobile deep tissue aromatherapy massage treatment by qualified therapist  
By appointment **07437 569187**

**Sports & Leisure**

**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
To sell items upto £250.  
Online at  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

### what's on

#### Antique Fairs

**ANTIQUA/COLLECTORS FAIR**  
Kilver Comm Centre, Sun 1st July and 5th August. EST 1979 Waverley, Next Book Fair Sun 15th July Refreshments. 0121 550 4381

#### Markets

**STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT**  
At Stourbridge Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday from 16th May  
**07957 399964**

**3 Home & Services**

#### Furniture

BED, 5ft, king size, luxury memory foam mattress, 2 drawer divan base, all unused, cost over £900, accept £245. 07787 636984.  
**THREE SEATER leather settee**, light grey, good condition, £50. Telephone 01562 882784.  
**THREE SEATER SETTEE** clean, good make, good condition, £75 ono. 01902 332777.

#### In Your Garden

**C B SHEDS & FENCING**  
We supply & fit. Free quotes. Call: **01922 720270**  
We also supply sleepers and decking

#### Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**CAMPING TRAILER**, 4ft x 3ft, strong frame structure, has two new tyres. £250 ono.  
Telephone 01384 270029

**CORRUGATED GALVANISED** Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. Dair Brothers on 07834 489568

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

#### Items Wanted

**A BEST CASH PRICE**

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
**01384 636219/07891 713547**  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)

**ALL BRASS/COPPER** ornaments/brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys and railways. 01902 745598.

**MAMOD STEAM** engines/trains wanted. All conditions, railway collections, Scalextric by Tri-ang any condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any Spectrum 48k or 128k+2 computer wanted also any old Crash or Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

**WANTED PERFUMES**, new or old, used or unused, Christian Dior, Chanel, YSL.  
Jane 07716 371694.

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES**  
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone **01922 327897** or **07976 691563.**

**WANTED NINTENDO SEGA** old Nintendo, Atari, Sega, Commodore etc games & consoles. 80's-90s toys Star Wars, Thundercats etc Graphic Novels Marvel, DC, Football shirts Cash Waiting.  
**07866 691968**

**Loans**

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

**specialists at your service**

**Aerials**

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99  
**01902 858191 • 01384 429166**  
**01543 439095 • 01922 716029**

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**

**"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"**

**Steve - AA Digital Aerials**

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST**  
Digital Aerials Fitted Sky & CCTV Cameras  
Free Quotes. 7 days  
**07850 330251**

**Alarms/Security**

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £249  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

**Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661**  
[claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk)

### Fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. **£795**  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
**0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656**  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**

**"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."**

**Michael - Portway Fencing**

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**Gardening Services**

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**Gas Fitting**

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

**House Clearances**

**ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

**Plastering**

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

**Painters/Decorators**

**Express & Star DECORATORS!**

**CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT**  
(T&Cs Apply)

**Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661**  
[claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk)

**Removals**

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
13 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**Roofing**

**MG ROOFING**  
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.  
Call **01902 238989 / 07580 465449.**  
[www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk)

**Rubbish Removal**

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste. House Clearance. 07969 626382

### Removals

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
13 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**Roofing**

**MG ROOFING**  
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.  
Call **01902 238989 / 07580 465449.**  
[www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk](http://www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk)

**Rubbish Removal**

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste. House Clearance. 07969 626382

**t.v. / home entertainment**

**Service**

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"**

**"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"**

**Bill - TV Link**

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**Classified Ads**  
Brought to you by Express & Star



## 4 Pets & Animals

### Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

### Pets Corner

#### NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**ESTHER**  
Is a very sweet black 12 year old female cat.  
Neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.  
Suit older person or someone living alone.  
Call 0784 7360784.

## 5 Business & Farming

### Business Opportunities

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### Public Notices

## PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

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**HILDA IRENE MORLEY** (Deceased)  
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## 10 Personals

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# Flair added to Citroën's C4 Cactus

By Sharon Walters

There's nothing prickly about Citroën's latest C4 Cactus and nothing for some of the previous Cactus buyers to get prickly about.

I refer to the plastic airbumps that used to adorn the sides of the Cactus, I actually quite liked them, they were very useful in supermarket car parks to ward off dents from wayward supermarket trolleys.

But they were not so aesthetically pleasing. One thing they did do was make the car stand out – something Citroën has been very good at over the years with several quirky designs.

In this latest incarnation of car that's been around since 2014, the French manufacturer has largely ditched them with just vestiges on the lower extremities.

**Upmarket**

The removal was part of the company's efforts to move the car more upmarket and it's certainly worked. Inside and out 90 per cent of what you see is new. In addition to the reduced Airbump panels, it's wider at the front and rear, with front LED daytime running lights, extra chrome highlights and a choice of nine body colours and four colour packs which allow you to add a touch of black, white, silver or red to the front foglight trim – which provide buyers with no fewer than 31 exterior combinations.

Inside the cabin is very quiet thanks to better soundproofing, it feels spacious, light and welcoming and there's a wealth of tech inside including today's must-have and all-important connectivity. Here it's the excellent MirrorLink which is compatible with Apple CarPlay and



The cabin feels spacious, light and welcoming



There are just vestiges of the Airbumps

Android Auto. All information and apps are contained on a seven-inch touchscreen and DAB radio and Bluetooth are standard on all models

On the safety side the C4 Cactus has a comprehensive pack including active safety brake and blind spot monitoring, park assist with reversing camera, hill start assist,

grip control and fog lights with a cornering function.

And for those of us who sometimes don't take enough breaks on long hauls there's a 'take a break' flashing cup and saucer which appears on the dashboard when you've been in the driver's seat for more than two hours. And if you're on your handsfree phone for too



C4 has front LED daytime running lights, extra chrome highlights and a choice of nine body colours

long you'll get a message inviting you to hang up or pull over

Two different trims currently are on offer – Feel, and Flair with prices starting at start at £17,265 – and engine options of three 3-cylinder PureTech petrol engines and the highly efficient BlueHDi 100 S&S diesel, as well as the latest generation EAT6 fully

automatic gearbox. I tested the C4 Cactus Feel BlueHDi 100 which gave excellent fuel returns and enjoyed a nimble and responsive driving experience on country lanes and on motorways.

True French flair in this car and on reflection I think it was a wise decision to ditch the plastic – now the car has more style.

## STRIKING DEALS AT TWALL APPROVED

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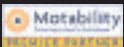
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Latest upgrades include a rev-matching powertrain

# Best-selling Ford Mustang gets performance and tech upgrade

By James Parker

Ford has announced further upgrades for the new Ford Mustang, enhancing performance and driving experience; comfort and convenience; and delivering more personalisation options for the world's best-selling sports coupe.

The new Ford Mustang 2.3-litre EcoBoost is for the first time offered with new Active Valve Performance Exhaust technology – previously offered only for Mustang 5.0-litre V8 models, enabling drivers to adjust the intensity of their vehicle's exhaust note to suit their mood and the driving scenario. A stylish quad-tailpipe design also features for Mustang 5.0-litre V8.

New rev-matching technology first unveiled for the exclusive Ford Mustang Bullitt special edition model will deliver smoother downshifts as standard for new Mustang 5.0-litre V8 models with six-speed manual transmission, accompanied by a sporty "blip" of the 450PS engine.

A new B&O PLAY audio system option delivers 1000 watts of power through 12 speakers for a premium audio experience, and new colours include vintage-inspired Velocity Blue and dynamic Need for Green.

"Continuous improvement and innovation have been a huge part of Mustang's success during the past 54



Mustang's 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine delivers 290PS

years, which includes 35,000 happy customers in Europe since first going on sale across the region in 2015," said Roelant de Waard, vice president, marketing, sales and service, Ford of Europe. "Our latest upgrades including rev-matching powertrain technology for sporty, precision gear-changes, and a premium 1,000-watt B&O PLAY audio system, deliver even more character and driving appeal for fans of this iconic car."

Active Valve Performance Exhaust settings can be adjusted using Mustang's Drive Modes – Normal, Sport, Track and Snow/Wet, and new Drag Strip Mode and customisable My Mode – via the 12-inch all-digital LCD instrument panel, as well as through the standard 4.2-inch cluster.

An innovative Quiet Mode can also be programmed to automatically limit the exhaust's noise output at pre-programmed times of the day to avoid disturbing neighbours.

Mustang's 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine delivers 290PS and 440Nm of torque alongside 31.4 mpg fuel efficiency and 199g/km CO<sub>2</sub>, when combined with a six-speed manual gearbox. A more responsive and engaging driving experience is delivered with a transient overboost function for the turbocharger – triggered under heavy acceleration to provide an extra burst of boost following each up-shift.

New Ford Mustang 5.0-litre V8 drivers will benefit from rev-matching technology that uses the engine's electronic control system to briefly "blip" the throttle as the driver downshifts – matching the engine rotation speed to that of the gear that is being selected for smooth, seamless gear-changes.

Ford's 450PS 5.0-litre V8 engine has been further developed to deliver more power and a higher rev limit than ever before, supported by a new dual-fuel, high-pressure direct injection and low-pressure port fuel injection system, delivering 23.3mpg fuel-efficiency and 270g/km CO<sub>2</sub> emissions when combined with Ford's 10-speed automatic gearbox.

Customised for the new Mustang's interior environment, the new B&O PLAY premium audio system option delivers a rich audio experience for occupants whichever seat they occupy.

The system features a dual-voice coil subwoofer for deep, crisp bass and high-performance three-way front door speakers for even sound distribution throughout the cabin, enabling customers to get the most from music streamed via Mustang's SYNC 3 communications and entertainment system, which is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto™.

## How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

### Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail	Automotive	Finance
<b>2.8x</b>	<b>1.7x</b>	<b>5.7x</b>

So, whatever the size your business or budget, get motoring into newspapers.

For the full story and more details:  
[newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness](http://newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness)





An early Wolves kit featuring stripes in 1904



Peter Broadbent in a vintage 1950s strip



All gold was worn in the 1960s



Captain Mike Bailey lifts the League Cup in 1974

# Kitted out throughout the years



Andy Gray in another League Cup winning kit, 1980,

## GOLD shirt, black shorts... sounds simple, doesn't it?

Wolves' famous colours are known the world over but due to contractual obligations to try to persuade fans to fork out the best part of £50 a year, the classic gold and black look has been tampered with many times over the years – with good and bad results.

Wolves of course actually started life playing in red and white stripes, perish the thought, and while the stripes stayed until 1922, the colour quickly changed to a deep gold and black.

Conquered  
For 40 or so years came the definitive classic gold shirts and black shorts, including through the club's glorious heyday of the 1950s where the 'old gold' was gloriously prominent as Stan Cullis' team conquered the country and beat some of Europe's finest.

The old gold extended to shorts in the 1960s and then from the 1970s onwards came a fancy new logo and a darker shade of gold, worn by Mike Bailey when lifting the 1974 League Cup. Technology allowed for synthetic fibres to be worn by the time 1980 came around when another League Cup victory saw Wolves wear their last sponsor-free shirt. Tatung and Benjamin Perry were the club's first

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Spiers

sponsors but due to successive relegations and the worst period in Wolves' history, they aren't remembered half as fondly as Staw Distribution whose logo adorned shirts in the Steve Bull renaissance era, which included a Wembley win in the Sherpa Van Trophy in 1988. After four years of pinstripes, the faint two-shaded stripes were also a hit with fans.

Then, to coincide with the start of years of mediocrity in the 1990s, a ghastly shirt complete with quite bizarre tyre marks (to reflect Goodyear's sponsorship) was unveiled in 1992 – and prematurely scrapped a year later.

A no-nonsense 1994 edition complete with a return to the Wolverhampton coat of arms was a rare success in the modern kit era.

In 1996 came a love-it-or-hate-it wolf head template kit with plenty of black on the arms. A far more popular version of the black sleeves came in 2014. A number have been met with general indifference – but the new old gold version is a reversion could prove a popular choice.



The 2014 side donned smart sleeves



The 1992 tyre marks as worn here by Paul Cook



John De Wolf in a 1994 classic with coat of arms



Steve Bull celebrates a goal in a 1996 wolf head kit



Danny Batth models the new old gold home kit

## Neal's racing back into title contention

MATT Neal has fired himself into the title fight of the British Touring Car Championship after making three top-10 finishes at Croft over the weekend.

The Stourbridge-born driver now sits third in the drivers' standings half-way through the campaign. He finished ninth in race one at Croft, seventh in race two and fourth in race three at the North Yorkshire race track.

The 51-year-old said: "We really had to fight for every single point there, and my car ended up looking a bit battered and bruised. I think all the Hondas suffered, and Croft is normally a track that suits us."

Neal drew upon all of his experience and guile to fight his way to a ninth-place finish in race one.

In race two he found himself elbowed onto the grass by a rival and being relegated to 11th. He recovered to finish in seventh across the chequered-flag and rounded off the weekend's action with a solid fourth place in race three to briefly push for the podium.

## Academy develops to celebrate 20 years

STEVE Bull was guest of honour to mark 20 years of New Park Village Football Development. He was joined by another ex-Molineux striker, Mel Eves, and more than 300 guests at the Ramada Hotel, to mark the anniversary of the initiative set up by Joe Jackson and his wife Debbie in 1998.

Having conducted work as part of a school liaison programme, Jackson, who began at Wolves, making one senior appearance before a successful non-league career, started the NPV Academy in 2000. It now boasts multiple teams at six different age groups – from under-8s to under-12s, plus an under-16 side. It also runs holiday football schools.

Jackson, who managed Bilston Town, Stourbridge and Bromsgrove, said: "My experience showed me that there was a group of young people in the system, at risk of falling through the cracks. I felt there needed to be another set-up to help those that couldn't be reached within school."

To join an academy team, or for holiday club details, email npvfootballdevelopment@yahoo.co.uk

## Steeling a march on rivals in play-off bid

DELIGHTED chairman Rob Amor believes Sandwell Steelers are starting to hit top gear as they take a big step towards the play-offs.

Steelers beat Shropshire 34-7 and need only two more wins to confirm their place in the post-season competition.

It means Steelers remain on the heels of NFC One South leaders Leicester Falcons, who inflicted their only defeat of the season to date. A run of three straight home games, starting with the visit of Doncaster Mustangs on July 1, provides a chance to set up a showdown for the conference title when they face the Falcons again in the final week of the regular season.

Amor was purring about an offence which has now scored more than 200 points in five games. He said: "We have got an explosive offence and at the moment they are showing no signs of slowing down."

"We got off to a quick start and didn't look back. Once we had the lead, the defence stood up again and apart from the one touchdown they got, didn't let them get a look in."





## It's still going to plan for Halesowen

HALESOWEN were unable to take the last Wellington wicket to clinch the game after posting 222 all out at Seth Somers Park.

Middle-order defiance came from Wes Griffiths (69) and Charlie Hartley (42) after Halesowen slipped to 83 for five. Shropshire opening bowler Jack Twigger took 5 for 61 for the visitors, who closed on 143 for nine. Just 20 points now separate third-placed Halesowen and eighth-placed Oswestry in Birmingham League Division One.

Halesowen captain Alexei Kervezee said: "We were under the cosh at 83-5 with all our main batters back in the clubhouse but, as always, our depth and determination proved again and we recovered thanks to Wes, Charlie and youngster Hayden Evans. With the ball 'Mushy' Masharraf Shazad tied them in knots and we were just an inch away from knocking them over at 143-9 but I am not going to moan – we are on a great run, third in the division and the season is well on track with our plans for the year. We move on to Himley next week, who are always competitive, and we have some key players returning."

The second team fared less well. Wombourne totted up 261-6 in their 50 overs thanks to Greg Clark (101) whilst Nathan Hines 3-59 and Archie Reeves 2-57 kept remaining batsmen in check. In reply Owen got off to a stuttering start at 44-4 but Kester Moseley (116) and Rob Horn (26) put the visitors in with a chance but Hales finished 194 all out to lose by 67 runs.

## Jones thinking big as he makes rapid return to the ring

CONNOR Lee Jones is thinking big as he prepares to get busy as a professional boxer.

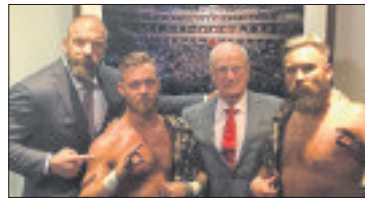
Jones, of Brierley Hill, faces a quick-fire second bout next month, stepping back into the ring in his home town at Dudley's The Venue on Saturday, July 7, less than a month after his pro debut.

He features in a four-round contest, on the 'Usual Suspects' show under the BCB Promotions banner.

The 22-year-old lightweight was last in action on June 9, at Willenhall Baths, and impressed with a points victory over former English title challenger Liam Richards. Major prizes are now in his mind. He said: "This show in Dudley is an easy one for me and my fans to get up for. It's close to home and should be a great atmosphere."

Top of the bill, Wolverhampton-born duo Matt Sen and Josh Burke collide in a Black Country battle for the eight-round British Challenge cruiserweight title. Dudley cohort Danny Ball and Josh Miller, Brummies Aaron Lovell and Daryl Pearce and Wolverhampton's Kirstie Bavington also feature.

## Moustache Mountain in tag triumph



Triple H, left, with Moustache Mountain duo Tyler Bate and Trent Seven, and Johnny Saint

TWO top professional wrestlers from the Black Country have struck gold with the world's largest sports entertainment company, World Wrestling Entertainment.

Netherton's Tyler Bate and Wolverhampton's Trent Seven teamed up to be crowned the tag team champions of WWE's NXT brand.

The duo known as 'Moustache Mountain' did it on British soil as well, holding the belts aloft at

London's Royal Albert Hall after a match against the Undisputed Era team of Kyle O'Reilly and Roderick Strong.

The pair have also collectively won the Progress Tag Team Championship, and the RPW Undisputed British Tag Team Championship in the UK as well as the Chikara Campeonatos de Parejas in the United States.

The crowd serenaded the Black Country duo with chants of 'You deserve it' after their

title triumph. The plaudits didn't end there as wrestling legend Triple H – who is also the chief operating officer of WWE – later took to Twitter to congratulate Bate and Seven saying "history was made in the iconic Royal Albert Hall".

Both were in the inaugural WWE UK Championship in 2017. They have since been part of WWE programming with a UK-based show set to feature the pair and champ Pete Dunne.

## Ayres returns as Heathens take on Brum

SHOWMAN Danny Ayres will return to ride with Cradley Heathens for their vital derby with Birmingham at Monmore Green on Monday evening.

Ayres was a big hit with Heathens fans during his spell with the club last season and has agreed to stand in for broken shoulder victim Adam Roynon.

Both the Motor Market Heathens and Brummies are fancied to top the National Trophy group and Monday could go a long way to deciding that.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "We looked at our options for Monday and we've plumped for Danny, he's the man for the big occasion! He understands the rivalry with Birmingham and he understands what it means to our fans."

"He said yes straight away when we asked him to do the meeting and I think he feels there is still a bit of unfinished business with Cradley."

"A win on Monday would really give us the upper hand but we know what a top team Birmingham are. We underachieved last season but we're enjoying the current season and can't wait for a massive meeting on Monday."

Heathens will still have teenage whizzkid Drew Kemp at reserve which means he can take up to seven rides. "We are fortunate with that," said Pottinger. "To have Drew at reserve is a real bonus. I thought he would be in the main body of the team right now but his new average doesn't come into effect yet. Hopefully we'll see a big crowd and we can put one over the Brummies."

# PRIORY CLUB IS A BIG HIT

BOXING club Priory Park are celebrating one of their finest seasons to date.

The Dudley-based club's youngsters have made a real impact, not only regionally with six Midlands champions but also countrywide with two of those champions going on to gain a national title each.

Summer Cooper, aged 12, and Kelsey Oakley, 14, both won nationwide tournaments and are now in the England squad.

As well as those successes, sisters Gracie and Mia Holland both reached finals with Ben Collins and Coree Clarke making semi-finals.

Club chairman Paul Gough is delighted with his latest crop of talented young boxers.

"We have had a truly tremendous group in at the moment and you can see that from results we've had," said Gough.

But what has been particularly pleasing for Gough has been the explosion of female boxing in the gym.

"We've got a special group of girls with six of them now carded fighters and two of those winning national titles," he added.

"As well as that we've got a lot of beginners coming through and we expect even more over the next six months. It's really great to see."

Priory Park are preparing for their annual trip to Monkstown, Dublin, to compete in an international tournament.

Gough said: "We are going over there with a team of seven. Most of our young fighters have been paired with boxers from countries like Sweden, Germany and USA, so it's going to be really tough. But we do this every year and we think our guys can contend with anyone. It will be a great experience."

Despite the club's success last season, Gough is just as proud of the club's work with children who may be having a hard time outside the ring.



Priory champs – back row, from left: Ben Collins, Summer Carter, Coree Clarke; front: Gracie Holland, Kelsey Oakley and Mia Holland

"We get a lot of parents coming in now who are concerned that their children are being bullied in school, it's quite a regular occurrence now," he said.

"We help to build their confidence, being around others in the gym and learning new skills. You can see their self-esteem increasing."

Gough has also seen membership boom at the club.

"We aren't too far off being maxed out at be-

ginner level, so we will either have to start progressing people or putting a waiting list in place," he said. "But it's great to see so much interest in the sport."

"We want more champions, both at regional and national levels," he said. "We want to enter even more box cups and competitions. We also want to put on even more shows, both competitive, carded events and developmental shows to give people the experience of that big fight feel."

## DKs Bolt into action at Blakedown 10k

THE weekend started early for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as several took part in the Blakedown Bolt, a tough 10k race over trails with some tough climbs and stiles to negotiate, culminating in a water crossing within a mile of the finish.

Mark Homer was first home for the hoops in 38th place in 46.42. Dave Hickman chased him in 46.42 of the course to finish in 42nd place in 47.05. Karen Doy finished in 55.53 in 122nd place and Zoe Marklew was 192nd in 1.03.34.

Dave Norman was first back for DK in the Shifnal Half Marathon at ninth in 1.30.24 and first in his age group.

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Halesowen

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## Gower Gardens Care Home Summer Fete

Saturday 14th July at 12pm - 4pm

### On the day...

The day will be jam-packed with stalls, competitions, prizes, activities and games suitable for all ages! There will also be live entertainment, as well as food and refreshments available. All money raised on the day will be donated to local charities including Birmingham Mind Charity.

### You are all invited!

You are invited to join us, along with friends and family that may wish to attend. We are delighted to also welcome Mayor of Dudley, Cllr. Alan Taylor, and Mayoress Mrs. Winifred Taylor.



31 Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PQ  
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# Gower Gardens Care Home

## Summer Fete



Saturday 14th July at 12pm - 4pm

During our Summer Fete event, there will be a chance to know our facilities and carers, to help you see that we are the right choice for your future.

### Gower Gardens offers:

- 24 hour high quality residential and dementia care
- 66 comfortable bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms
- Individually tailored activities and entertainment
- Contemporary on-site hairdressing facilities and café area
- Delightful landscaped sensory gardens



During the Summer Fete there will be tours available of the care home, our facilities and have a chat with our carers.

**To arrange, please call us on: 0121 289 3965**

31 Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PQ  
[www.blackcountrycare.co.uk](http://www.blackcountrycare.co.uk)

Saturday 14th July - 12pm – 4pm





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- Senior Night Care Assistants
- Domestic Assistants
- Care Assistants
- Night Care Assistants

**For more information on our vacancies, visit: [www.bchg.co.uk/jobs](http://www.bchg.co.uk/jobs)**

**Gower Gardens Care Home Summer Fete**  
**Saturday 14th July - 12pm – 4pm**



# Gower Gardens Care Home

# Summer Fete



Saturday 14th July - 12pm – 4pm

You are invited to join us!

Various stalls • Lots of games • Competitions and prizes  
Refreshments • Food and drink • Live entertainment • And much more!



## Gower Gardens

31 Kent Road,  
Halesowen,  
B62 8PQ



For more information, please  
call on 0121 289 3965.

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